



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Demanding Geographical Ratio With Syria

TA0704140795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 95
p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is demanding that the security arrangements with Syria be based on a geographical ratio of 1:9—namely, for each demilitarized or thinned-out square km on the Israeli side, the Syrians will demilitarize or thin out 9 square km on their side.

This demand was relayed to Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace talks, who arrived in Israel yesterday and held meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq. Ross will attempt to formulate the general principles of the security regime in the framework of a peace settlement and bring about an announcement about a meeting between Syrian and Israeli officers immediately after the Pesach holiday. He will leave for Damascus today and return to Israel tomorrow evening with a Syrian reply.

Political sources said that despite the good progress made at the outset of the talks between Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim, the negotiations are now stuck and Israel does not yet know what al-Asad's true intentions are. A report received by the Foreign Ministry yesterday indicates that the Syrian president is worried about moving forward because he fears that the Likud might rise to power.

In the ambassadors' talks, Syria stood firm in its demand for "absolute equality" in the security arrangements—that is, a ratio of 1:1 in terms of territory and military forces. Israel is willing to accept reciprocity in terms of the military forces but is demanding a geographical ratio of 1:9 based on the proportion between the territory of the two countries: Syria's 186,000 square km compared with Israel's 21,000 square km.

It seems that the Americans favor a compromise whereby the geographical ratio would be 1:4. Political sources in Jerusalem assessed that if an agreement is reached, it will be along the lines of this compromise.

In yesterday's meeting, Rabin asked Ross to persuade Damascus to agree to hold the officers talks even if no agreement is reached on the exact wording of the principles of the security arrangements, a topic that will feature prominently in Rabin's talks in Washington at the beginning of May.

Syrian Track 'Treading Water' After Ross Meetings

TA0704183695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States is considering changing the format of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations should the U.S. peace team's current shuttle fail. This was revealed by U.S. sources today. Team leader Dennis Ross met with Foreign Minister Peres today. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has the details:

[Sukenik] Following the peace team's meetings at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday and at the Foreign Ministry today, it has been learned that the negotiations with Syria are treading water and, contrary to expectations, no real progress was achieved in the ambassadorial talks that resumed in Washington last week. There is even no certainty that Ross and his team, who met yesterday with the Israeli chief of staff in Tel Aviv, will be able to meet with the Syrian chief of staff tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich: Time Running Out in Talks With Syria

TA0904061195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Report on interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the team negotiating with Syria, by political correspondent Shlomo Raz "last night"; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] The game of words has ended, at least at this stage. Ambassador Rabinovich puts the blame directly on Syria.

[Rabinovich] It is the Syrians who are putting up obstacles. As you will recall from our previous discussions, in our talks with the Syrians we continue to contend with the dispute over the understandings that must form the basis for the talks on the security arrangements. The Syrians insist on certain concepts, some of which are definitely unacceptable to us. We believe that the purpose of the talks is to reach an agreement. To do that, the experts talks must be convened.

[Raz] Is the dispute over semantics or are there actual problems, such as the issue of equality?

[Rabinovich] Yes, we are talking about formulations, which conceal contents. If it transpires that it is merely the wording, then the question arises: Why argue so vehemently? If it is contents, we want to know what they are.

[Raz] Israel is demanding preferential treatment in the security arrangements because it is giving up territorial assets that have security significance. That is why the Syrian demand for equality is being flatly rejected:

[Rabinovich] Expressions like equality are taking up a great deal of time and are holding up the real negotiations. From that point of view, to use your expression, it is disappointing.

[Raz] The significance is that the officers talks are not being resumed at this time, despite the understanding reached during Christopher's earlier visit to the region

on Dennis Ross' announcing their resumption during his current shuttle mission. In the meantime, time is running out:

[Rabinovich] We all know the political calendar in Israel and the United States and the international situation. Time is running out for the Syrians, just as it is for us.

[Raz] The top political echelon may not be in total agreement that there is a crisis in the negotiations with Syria but, as Amb. Rabinovich says, there are definitely problems and a sense of disappointment.

Palestinian Affairs

Suicide Attacks Reported Near Kfar Darom, Netzarim

Car Bomb Explodes Near Kfar Darom

JN0904105295 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1015 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A car bomb exploded near an Israeli bus near Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip at noon today.

Israeli military sources said two Israelis were killed and 25 others were wounded in the incident.

No party, as yet, has claimed responsibility for this incident. Other sources believe the number of those killed exceeds the above figure.

Al-Quds Radio Reports 4 'Zionists' Killed

JN0904121095 *(Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic* 1145 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following from the steadfast Gaza Strip: The latest casualty toll from the heroic martyrdom-seeking operation by a Palestinian youth, who blew up a bus carrying Zionist settlers, is four Zionists killed and over 38 injured, including nine in serious condition.

Al-Quds Radio correspondents report that the Zionist soldiers have beaten up Arab reporters, including Bassam 'Abdallah and Muhammad al-Dawudi, and smashed their cameras.

2d 'Martyrdom Operation' Kills 3

JN0904122995 *(Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic* 1204 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following from the [Gaza] Strip, the paragon of pride and vengeance: A second martyrdom operation has been carried out by a Palestinian hero near the Zionist settlement of Netzarim. In this operation, the hero blew up his car between two Zionist military vehicles, killing three Zionist soldiers and wounding seven others, three of them seriously. This is the second martyrdom operation carried out today in the steadfast

Gaza Strip, the paragon of pride and vengeance. Thus, the number of the Zionists killed has risen to seven.

Israeli TV Reports Gaza Attacks

TA0904130895 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew* 1230 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer Daniyel Pe'er] Six people were killed and over 40 wounded in Kfar Darom when a car bomb exploded near a No. 36 Egged bus driving from Ashqelon to the Qatif Bloc. The Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In another terrorist attack in the Strip, five people were wounded—two seriously and three slightly—when a car bomb exploded near the Netzarim gas station. The blast damaged a Border Police jeep, slightly wounding two policemen. A second vehicle went up in flames and its two passengers suffered serious injuries.

Our correspondent in the south Shlomi Eldar is on the line. What do you have on the incidents, Shlomi?

[Eldar] [passage omitted] The entire area has been declared a closed military zone and is still sealed off. Border Police and Israel Police bomb disposal experts are still trying to defuse bombs scattered in the area. I have been told that there had been hundreds of kilograms of explosives in one of the car bombs, but not all the explosives have blown up so far.

[Pe'er] Is the situation being handled by our forces, or are the Palestinian police participating in the efforts?

[Eldar] The Palestinian police were asked only a few minutes ago to cordon off the area in order to bar traffic, but the actual work is being done by our troops. [passage omitted]

Six Soldiers, 1 Civilian Reported Dead

TA0904190295 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew* 1815 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's communique issued a few minutes ago, six of the seven fatalities in the two terror attacks that took place in the Gaza Strip today are soldiers. Their next of kin have been notified. [passage omitted]

The IDF spokesman further announced that two soldiers have sustained critical injuries; five sustained grave injuries; 10 were moderately wounded; and 24 soldiers sustained light injuries. The total number of wounded in both bombings stands at 57, including 15 people in a serious condition. Some casualties are expected to be sent home tonight.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Claim Gaza Attacks

TA0904164995 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew* 1600 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Both Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad have claimed responsibility for the suicide attacks in the Gaza Strip. Our

correspondent Hanan Schlein reports that an Islamic Jihad leaflet states that the organization is responsible for the car bomb which exploded in the vicinity of Kfar Darom. According to the leaflet, the car was driven by 22-year-old Khalid al-Khatib from the al-Nusayrat refugee camp. Camp residents said al-Khatib had been incarcerated at the Qezi'ot prison in connection with his activities for Hamas. [as heard]

Hamas has claimed responsibility for the second car bomb, which exploded near Netzarim.

Islamic Jihad Communique on Kfar Darom Attack
JN0904183195 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man received a short while ago the military communique issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, under the headline "Islamic Jihad Takes Revenge for the Martyrs of Hamas and All Martyrs of the Palestinian People."

The communique says: On the path of liberation and victory; and to continue martyrdom-seeking jihad, followed by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, our heroic mujahidin today dealt devastating blows to the Zionist occupation forces.

At 1200 today, a martyrdom-seeking mujahid, from the Bet Lid Martyrs Group, affiliated with the Militant Islamic Forces [al-qiwa al-islamiyah al-mujahidah], Qasam—the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine—stormed an enemy forces' bus with a booby-trapped car which he was driving near the Kfar Darom settlement, south of Gaza. A number of Zionists was killed and more than 40 Zionists were wounded, some of them seriously, according to initial accounts.

As the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine continues to deal blows—supported by God's victory—to the Zionist enemy forces, it reaffirms that this operation, which is a continuation of the martyrdom-seeking Bet Lid operation, is our declaration of revenge for the souls of the heroic martyrs from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, who were assassinated by the treacherous Zionist hands and the collaborators from the limited self-rule in Hayy al-Shaykh Radwan on 2 April.

Let the enemy and its agents know that this is the people's retaliation and the mujahidin's revenge for the mujahidin. Those who guard enemy security, hide its crimes, and, in fact, participate in it will face failure and loss. This is our retaliation for the continued detention of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami and tens of his brothers from the mujahidin, scholars, and strugglers, who have been held in the prisons of the limited self-rule authority for more than three months.

This operation reaffirms, through blood and bullets, that we will not allow protecting the security of the enemy and its settlers at the expense of our people and in their

name. We underscore the need to remove Zionist settlements from our land. Occupation cannot provide security for its army or settlers regardless of its reinforcements, efforts, agreements, and the mean ones it recruits to serve its security. As the former chief of the Shin Bet fell, following the Bet Lid operation, the new chief of the Shin Bet will also fall.

Our strugglers reaffirm, through their blood, the failure of the Oslo accord and what it produced. They declare to the world that this accord is not binding on our people and that it will not yield security, peace, or stability. It will only produce more suffering, blood, and wars.

This operation has come as a warning to the self-rule authority to halt its efforts to serve the occupation authorities, harass the mujahidin, repress and muzzle our people, and restrict the political opponents' freedom of movement. It also serves notice that the continued detention of mujahidin and strugglers will only generate further anger and ferocity. We will not succumb to anybody's dictates. Let us proceed together along the path of jihad, martyrdom, and faith as long as the Zionist enemy maintains its occupation of the chaste land of Palestine. Glory and immortality to righteous martyrs.

May Palestine live as a free Arab and Muslim country from the River [Jordan] to the Mediterranean.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, Jerusalem

[Dated] 10 Dhu al-Qi'dah, corresponding to 9 April 1995

A subsequent statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has said: Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord. [Koranic verse] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine would like to announce to the masses of our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic nation the death of heroic mujahid Khalid Muhammad al-Khatib, a resident of the al-Nusayrat Camp in the steadfast Gaza Strip, who carried out the heroic assault against Zionist soldiers and settlers near the settlement of Kfar Darom in southern Gaza Strip at noon today. This assault killed eight Zionists and wounded over 40 Zionist soldiers and settlers, who were spreading corruption and perpetrating terrorism all over our occupied homeland.

While announcing the martyrdom of its righteous son, mujahid Khalid al-Khatib, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine would like to warn the enemy against attacking our people or meting out any punitive measures to our kinfolk in retaliation for jihad operations. In the same vein, it would like to warn the occupiers of the reaction and wrath of our mujahidin. The occupiers must realize that their oppression and tyranny will only promote our determination to proceed along the path of jihad and martyrdom.

Likewise, we would like to warn the self-rule authority, headed by 'Arafat and his repressive organs, against

imprisoning or pursuing our mujahidin in implementation of Rabin's dictates and the wishes of the U.S.-Zionist alliance, which wants to see our people and their Islamic mujahid vanguards beleaguered. Moreover, we urge policemen to halt the services they are rendering to the occupation authorities, and to stop the harassment of mujahidin and the repression of our people. We would like to reaffirm that the imprisonment of mujahidin and strugglers will only bring further wrath and ferocity. All humiliating and capitulatory deals will collapse at the hands of our mujahidin regardless of the force, pressures, and coercion mobilized to promote them. We pledge to heroic martyr Khalid al-Khatib that we will avenge his martyrdom with blood. We would also like him to know that his fraternal mujahidin are awaiting the time when they will join him along the path of martyrdom.

Glory and immortality to righteous martyrs.

May Palestine live as a free Arab and Muslim country from the River [Jordan] to the Mediterranean.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

150 Hamas, Islamic Jihad Activists Detained

TA1004052395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior source in the Palestinian Police says approximately 150 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists were detained in the Gaza Strip overnight, and this is not the last word on the matter.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem was told that Hamas men fired shots at policemen in the Khan Yunus area yesterday. The policemen pursued and detained two of the assailants, who are suspected of having murdered people who collaborated with Israel.

Hamas Threatens 'Stronger Blows'

JN1004125195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied territories, 10 Apr (INA)—In a statement claiming responsibility for one of the two heroic suicide operations in the Gaza Strip yesterday, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, threatened to deal stronger blows to the Zionist entity.

The statement, reported by news agencies today, said: We advise the Zionist settlers to leave the Gaza Strip before they are buried in its earth, which is cursing them. Our future strikes will be stronger than they may imagine.

The statement said 'Imad Abu-Ammunah, 22, from al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza, was the one who carried out the martyrdom-seeking booby-trapped car explosion, which killed or wounded a large number of the Zionists.

In a telephone call to AFP, an anonymous spokesman for the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement

claimed responsibility for the Netzarim operation, in addition to the Kfar Darom suicide operation a few hours earlier.

Nine Zionists were wounded in the Netzarim operation, in addition to the martyrdom of the one who carried it out. Six Zionist soldiers were killed in the Kfar Darom operation.

The Hamas statement said its operation coincided with the bold operation carried out by the Islamic Jihad Movement in reply to the Zionist Mosad's interference in the Gaza Strip's domestic affairs and the assassination of martyrs Hani 'Abid, Kamal Kuhayl, and Hatim Hassan. Hamas warned the Palestinian Authority against persecuting Hamas or the Islamic Jihad fighters.

'Arafat, Others React to 'Terrorist' Attacks

'Arafat: Perpetrators 'Enemies of Peace'

TA0904121495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's reaction to today's events in the Gaza Strip: The Palestinian Authority pledges to pursue the war on the perpetrators of terrorist attacks who seek to thwart the peace process.

Our correspondent Hanan Schlein reports that 'Arafat described the attack perpetrators as enemies of peace trying to foil the political negotiations.

'Arafat Phones Rabin on Incident

JN0904190095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the explosion that took place in the Gaza Strip, President Yasir 'Arafat said: We are determined to combat terrorism and those behind the explosion.

President Yasir 'Arafat has telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and expressed his condolences over the victims of today's incident. President Yasir 'Arafat said what happened is a direct challenge to the Palestinian National Authority.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has telephoned President Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat and Christopher discussed the latest developments and how to work together so as to allow the peace process to achieve its objectives.

Our correspondent in Gaza has more details:

[Begin recording] [al-Za'nun] Good evening, Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] Good evening to you.

[Al-Za'nun] Good evening to our dear listeners. President Yasir 'Arafat has said: We are determined to

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combat terrorism. Commenting on the explosion [20 second break in transmission] Israeli soldiers and settlers. A booby-trapped Peugeot exploded when an Israeli bus carrying Israeli soldiers and settlers approached the scene. The car was parked on a road near the Kfar Darom settlement near Wadi al-Salqah, south of the city of Dayr al-Balah.

President Yasir 'Arafat added: Those who stand behind the recent explosion are the enemies of peace. They are trying, together with the enemies of peace from the other side, to place all kinds of obstacles on the path of peace. In doing so, the president added, they are supported by many countries. The president said: Part of the money of those people comes from America. Thus, U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the freezing of their assets. Also, the president added, they receive money from Iran. President 'Arafat said: The peace of the brave requires much bravery on our side.

For his part, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's adviser, has stressed that the implementation of the agreement is a way out of the crisis. He noted that no one has a magic wand and that it is impossible to prevent anyone from killing himself. However, progress in the peace process, redeployment, holding legislative elections, and dismantling the Israeli settlements could bring about the just and comprehensive peace that is sought by everybody.

In a news conference held by Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, official in charge of the national security forces, at the scene of the incident, al-Majayidah said the settlements are the main cause of explosions and security disorders. This is because the road to the settlements is hazardous for the settlers and the Israeli occupation forces.

Maj. Gen. al al-Majayidah said the Higher Security Council, which is currently meeting at the Presidential Office, will discuss what happened today.

In another incident, six Israeli soldiers were injured when a booby-trapped car collided with an Israeli military jeep near the Netzarim settlement, south of Gaza City. That is all I have now, Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you, and we will hear from you later.
[end recording]

Al-Jabali Blames 'Foreign Quarters'

JN1004084395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli Army spokesman today said that seven people, including one person who carried out one of the operations, were killed in the two Gaza explosions yesterday. The spokesman added that 35 Israelis were wounded in the two operations. Two of them are in critical condition, eight are in serious condition, and the rest are in less serious conditions.

President Yasir 'Arafat and the National Authority have condemned all incidents obstructing the peace process.

Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, Public Security director in the Gaza Strip, spoke to us this morning on these two operations.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Who is responsible for yesterday's incidents in Gaza?

[Al-Jabali] Those who received instructions from abroad, from Iran, are responsible for them. They received instructions from Iran, Amman, and other countries to continue their plans to sabotage the agreement and the Palestinian dream. This is well known. Whenever we make a step toward implementing the agreement or fulfilling the Palestinian dream of a Palestinian state, they receive orders from known foreign quarters to prove that the Palestinian Authority cannot maintain security and, consequently, prove that it cannot control the West Bank and is unable to assume power there. Consequently, they will not give us the West Bank and thus shatter the Palestinian dream of establishing a Palestinian state. This has become clear to all.

[Correspondent] We had pro-Israeli agents and now we have agents for other foreign quarters.

[Al-Jabali] And for Israel, too. There are agents for foreign quarters and for Israel, too. You are aware of the Bet Lid story and the operation that was launched from al-Duhayniyah. There is a right-wing bloc in Israel opposing the peace agreement and they agree with others on the need to wreck the peace accord. Therefore, it is in Israel's interest not to return the West Bank to us and to keep things confined to Gaza first and last.

[Correspondent] You have been busily with investigations since yesterday. Have you drawn any other conclusions?

[Al-Jabali] The plot is clear, the plot is clear. The plot needs no further evidence, beginning with the Kuhayl incident. Two hours after the operation, [Ibrahim] Ghawshah announced from Amman that the National Authority and the Shin Bet were responsible for it. He announced in Amman, where he is living and where he cannot say a word, that the Palestinian National Authority and the Shin Bet were responsible even before we announced anything. Matters are pretty clear to all. Those who harmed are our mujahid, struggling people in Gaza. Workers have not gone to their places of work for over three months. The people are hungry and this is a fact. Those who receive millions of dollars and store them under the floor or in banks are responsible for this. The people remain hungry and they do not want to see them make any progress in order that they remain under siege. Israel agrees with them, too, because whenever they carry out an operation, Israel imposes a siege. Our brothers who were here before us in the homeland say that this siege and starvation of our people did not occur even under the military rule. Thus, it is a siege by these quarters and the Israelis. There is coordination between them. This is solid proof that there is coordination among them all to shatter the Palestinian dream.

[Correspondent] Brig. Gen. Ghazi al-Jabali, thank you for this clarification.

[Al-Jabali] Thank you, brother. [end recording]

Al-Tibi Pledges Probe of Incidents

JN1004105595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Isam Abu-Dulah, on 10 April; place not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tibi] The Palestinian Authority [PA] is committed to the agreements it signed and adheres to preserving security and order. The PA will probe into these operations. We will interrogate all those directly involved in these operations and if proved guilty they will stand trial.

Whoever wants peace should make bold decisions. In order to save the lives of their children, salvage the peace process, and save the lives of many Palestinians and both peoples, the Israelis should make the boldest decision now and not tomorrow—to remove these settlements, the foremost of which are the Netzarim settlement and the Gush Qatif settlement. This decision would prove to all Palestinians and Israelis that this peace process has substance.

PA Official on Sarid's Proposal, Blast

JN0904140895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, official in charge of transportation in the Palestinian Authority, by Yasir 'Atilah on 9 April; place not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, official in charge of transport in the Palestinian Authority, there have been reports that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres proposed during a meeting a month ago with Dr. Nabil Sha'th creating an independent Palestinian state in Gaza in return for postponing discussion of issues related to the West Bank for a period ranging from 10 to 15 years. What is your comment on these reports?

[Ahmad] I have come across this report in the newspapers and other mass media. We, as the Palestinian National Authority Council, were not informed of this proposal. This issue was not discussed. We reject, in principle, any partitioning of the Oslo agreement implementation, which observes the geographical unity between Gaza and the West Bank and which provides for unified geographical jurisdiction. The agreement should be implemented in full along two phases; the first is Gaza-Jericho first and the second is redeploying [Israeli troops], conducting elections, and pulling out from the West Bank.

['Atilah] How do you view Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid's proposal to evacuate the Jewish population centers from Netzarim?

[Ahmad] I believe that in order to establish security and advance the peace process, withdrawal has to be carried out from all settlements. There can be no peace with the presence of settlements and confiscation of lands to expand settlements. It is necessary to dismantle the Netzarim settlement, where only 23 families live and incurring heavy expenses on Israel in order to protect these few families. I believe there is no justification whatsoever to keep this settlement. I also believe that Sarid's proposal is an encouraging gesture of goodwill that helps extend bridges of confidence and reconciliation.

['Atilah] On the other hand there are some incidents, like, for example, the assault operation that took place a short while ago, which cripple the peace process. An Israeli Defense Army bus was blown up by an explosive charge a short while ago. According to preliminary reports, three people were killed and others were injured. What would you say to the perpetrators?

[Ahmad] We would say that it is absolutely impermissible to kill or attack unarmed citizens. We should press ahead with the peace process in order to restore the rights of the Palestinian people. If the peace process deviates from the approach that was agreed on in Oslo, then we must expect many such reactions and actions.

PA Members 'Sharply Denounce' Perpetrators

TA0904142395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Palestinian Authority [PA] sharply denounce today's attacks and promise to continue the struggle against the perpetrators. Yasir 'Arafat said that the people who carried out the car bomb attacks in Kfar Darom and Netzarim seek to put an end to the peace process.

Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, one of the senior Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the opponents of peace must be stopped at all costs.

A senior PA source told our correspondent Dani Zaquen that Minister Sarid's remarks regarding the need to evacuate settlements in the Gaza Strip were validated today.

Official Spokesman Condemns Operation

JN0904190495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has stated the following: The terrorist operation that was carried out against a bus carrying Israelis in Kfar Darom near Wadi al-Salqah in the Gaza Strip is condemned in all its aspects. It is an attempt to disrupt security in the Gaza Strip and to give Israel further

pretexts to continue its siege of the Strip and to starve its workers and people. This operation is against the peace process and against our people and their interests and future. This can never be accepted under any pretext. The necessary measures shall be taken to maintain security in the Strip.

The official Palestinian source stressed that expediting the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a sure and quick guarantee for achieving security. This will also deny extremists on both sides any chance to carry out their plans.

Yusuf Vows To Eradicate Hamas Military Wing

TA0904182595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police, says the force under his command will do everything possible to locate those responsible for today's attacks. He said the Palestinian Authority [PA] will eradicate—and not in a long period of time—Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm without harming political Hamas. Yusuf spoke with our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar in Tel Aviv after a speech to the Council for Peace and Security. In his speech, the commander of the Palestinian police claimed the Islamic Movement was established and armed by Israel out of political motives, but the PA is nevertheless responsible for dealing with this movement.

Police To Take New Measures

JN1004140395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the National Authority [NA], has said that the Palestinian police will take new measures to stop operations, such as those which were carried out in the Gaza Strip. He added that the NA will not allow the situation to deteriorate in the Strip.

Abu-Middayn called for removing the settlements which constitute an obstacle to peace.

Higher Security Council Discusses Explosions

JN0904201895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Security Council in the Palestinian National Authority held an extraordinary meeting in Gaza this evening under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat. The Council discussed the two explosions which occurred today near the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip.

Radio Denounces 'Terrorism'

JN1004090995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Station commentary by Yusuf al-Qazzaz: "We Will not Depart From Peace" from the "New Day" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] When we opted for peace with Israel, our choice reflected the decision of the majority of our Palestinian people. This option has been and will remain a Palestinian national decision, unaffected by those who have a weak memory or who harbor illusions.

We reiterate to the world, to our Israeli partners, and to the enemies of peace that we support peace, the peace of the brave, the peace of Palestine and the Palestinian people whose first stage was implemented by the PLO, their national leadership and their Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

We made our strategic decision to conclude peace with Israel after Arab and non-Arab capitals had gone a long way in their attempts to fragment the Arab destiny, to secretly negotiate with Israel, and to raise a hue and cry on the radio and television and in the press to make us move away from the arena of struggle, be it political, on the ground, or in the form of our calling for our national rights and abiding by our independent Palestinian national decisionmaking. To do this, these capitals resorted to arguments on strategic parity, the indivisibility of the battle, and other lies.

While we made our decision to conclude peace with Israel the Iranian's ill-intentions were looming on the Arab and Palestinian horizon, wishing our Palestinian people and Arab nation death and backwardness wrapped in the slogans of the Islamic Revolution. However, we know that Islam has nothing to do with the Iranian turbans.

Where was Iran during the Lebanon siege? Where were Tehran's offshoots during the glorious intifadah?

We now know very well that these alien offshoots seek to negate the Palestinian perception of peace. We also know that while terrorist operations embarrass the PNA they also place the disfigured Iranian offshoots in a corner in our Palestinian arena.

Those who are sabotaging the peace process have chosen isolation. The same applies to the Israeli settlers who also sabotage the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Those championing the Iranian designs have chosen the same course as the Israeli settlers—that of undermining peace.

We now say that since the Palestinians have left the era of terrorism behind, the Israelis should leave the era of settlements behind and stop obstructing the implementation of their commitments to the leadership of the Palestinian people.

In the same manner that we condemn the terrorism by the villains, as took place in Gaza yesterday, we also condemn the Israeli recourse to continued settlement activities and the Israeli soldiers' harassment of the sons of our Palestinian people at the Israeli military checkpoints, the demolition of houses, and the continued incarceration of our detainees in Israeli jails.

There can be no peace with settlements, the demolition of houses, and with jails. Israeli Settlements Minister Ben-Eli'ezer should understand very well that his settlement craze fuels all forms of terrorism and gratuitously serves Iran's offshoots, which purchase weapons from the Israeli army's warehouses with Iranian funds.

We will not depart from peace, and the wise Israeli will not depart from it too. Our common option as Palestinians and Israelis is peace on this land. This is a common challenge.

If peace is necessary for us, the Palestinians, it is more than a necessity for the Israelis. They must take off the cloak of settlement activity, which is one of the forms of terrorism against the Palestinian people and land. We will continue to humanely assimilate all peace dimensions, and the Israelis should do the same. As for those who seek to impose their terrorist rhythm on our daily Palestinian life, they will continue to be viewed as suspicious and obscure elements and they will not succeed because their ideas are those of outlaws and rebels as they forget our Palestinian people's customs and traditions, and their civilization. That's why they will be relegated into oblivion.

Concluding, we say that all the Palestinian people assume their responsibility to support peace and reject terrorism. They want peace and only peace.

Cabinet Statement on 2 Apr Gaza Blast, Israeli Moves

*JN0804201295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1730 GMT 8 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] held its weekly meeting today under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat.

The president said that the statements fomenting sedition which come from abroad are aimed at igniting a civil war to make the Gaza-Jericho agreement first and last.

The Council praised the statement issued by the Palestinian nationalist forces and factions on the incidents in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in which they rejected any attempt to foment sedition or threaten national unity. The Council issued the following statement:

During its meeting today under President 'Arafat, the PNA Council of Ministers discussed the overall security situation in the Palestinian areas, particularly the terrible explosion which occurred in Gaza last week, destroying a building, damaging neighboring buildings, and killing and wounding a number of persons, including Hamas fugitive Kamal Kuhayl.

The Council paid special attention to the serious dimensions and indications of this incident, which could have caused a catastrophe at the scene of the incident; namely, the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, as a result of the

quantities of explosives and large missiles found in various places in the house. After discussing all aspects of the incident, the Council stresses the following:

1. The PNA rejects residential areas being turned into places to make or store explosives under any pretext. The Palestinian security organs will decisively confront these reckless actions and this indifference to our citizens' lives and security in order to safeguard the security of the homeland and citizen.

2. The PNA Council of Ministers denounces the misleading and false statements issued by Hamas on the incident. It considers these statements a premeditated attempt to foment sedition pursuant to a decision made by external sides to revive the alternative options which are rejected both on the national and pan-Arab levels.

3. The Council of Minister reiterates that there will be no authority in the homeland other than the PNA, and rejects all attempts to undermine the prestige of the PNA to weaken the Palestinian negotiating position and to create weak pretexts used by Israel to evade implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] stipulating redeployment, elections, and the Israeli Army withdrawal to specified positions so as to begin negotiations on the final status, including Jerusalem, the settlements, and the establishment of the independent state.

4. The Council of Ministers praises the mammoth strong popular denunciation of the instigative statements and calls for fomenting sedition, which are imported from outside, which were either broadcast or distributed, and which were aimed at tampering with the citizens' security. The Council also applauds the efforts made by the Palestinian security forces to prevent the expansion of the catastrophe following last week's explosion, and calls on them to demonstrate further alertness to safeguard the homeland's security with further decisiveness toward all those who try to encroach on the security of the homeland and citizen.

5. The Council took note of the efforts made by the president to bury sedition in the city of Nabulus in the wake of the painful incidents. It praised the efforts of the nationalist institutions, forces, and figures in this regard, which provided the opportunity to control the situation. It thanked all those who contributed to these efforts both on the popular and official levels.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Council of Ministers decided that mosque pulpits should not be used for sedition, agitation, and instigation. It also decided to remove and ban articles posted on mosque walls. This is because mosques are places of worship for all Muslims, so they should not be used for such narrow-minded and detestable calls.

In its weekly meeting, the Council of Ministers also studied the political situation. The president submitted a

report on his meeting with Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process. The report deals with the repercussions of the Israel closure on the PNA areas, the settlement activity which threatens the entire peace process, the isolation of the West Bank from the Gaza Strip, our arrears held by the Israeli side, and the Israeli obstacles to the implementation of the DOP.

The president briefed the Council of Ministers on the unofficial ideas presented by the Israeli side on redeployment and the Israeli military presence as a prelude to the elections as well as on expanding the areas from which the Israeli Army will withdraw in light of security developments.

The president said that although these proposals were not presented as official documents, they are still ideas Israel is using to try to circumvent the DOP. The Israelis do not want to complete the implementation of the agreement, and they want to isolate the West Bank from Gaza.

The president pointed out that the Israelis refused to admit a consignment of drinking water via the Rafah crossing despite the prior approval of Rabin, Peres, and other Israeli officials. He said this consignment has been at the Rafah crossing for five days.

In this regard, the Council of Ministers reemphasized the need to unequivocally comply with the articles of the DOP. It decided to resume negotiations on elections, as scheduled, in Cairo 10-11 April under Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the negotiations committee, submitted a report on the work of the liaison, security, civil, and economic committees. Assessing the overall negotiations, 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that the Israelis are trying to evade the implementation of the agreement while working to intensify the settlement activity in an attempt to impose a map without negotiating with the Palestinian side. 'Abd-Rabbuh warned against the Israeli settlement schemes which include building more than 5,000 new settlement units in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas in addition to some West Bank areas.

The secretary general of the presidency said the Council of Ministers views these settlement schemes with extreme concern. The Council also reemphasizes that peace and settlement activity are two parallel lines which do not converge and that adherence to the peace option necessarily means stopping all settlement activities in all occupied Palestinian territories, led by holy Jerusalem.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added: The Council of Ministers held the Israeli Government fully responsible for future developments if there is continued stalemate with regard to implementing the DOP and if things return to square one.

The Council of Ministers studied the issue of the Palestinian financial arrears, resulting from accumulated taxes, which are held by Israel. The Council also studied the obstacles Israel is placing to delay the transfer of

these arrears, which amount to \$23 million a month. The arrears also include the income tax collected from the Palestinian workers working inside Israel, the health insurance fee paid by our workers inside Israel, the income tax paid by Israelis working in the West Bank, the property tax collected by the Civil Administration in the West Bank, and other taxes and customs revenues.

In this regard, the Council was briefed by Dr. 'Atif 'Alawinah on the latest developments concerning this important and sensitive issue. The Council was also briefed by some Palestinian experts in this field. It decided to intensify talks with Israel to collect these arrears without waiting for a decision in this regard from the Israeli Knesset.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the Council refused to address the Knesset with regard to repaying these debts because the powers have already been transferred to the PNA. The presentation of this issue to the Knesset is a serious measure and may block the implementation of the agreement if the Knesset structure is changed.

He stressed that the closures, paralyzing the Palestinian economic activity, failing to transfer the Palestinian arrears, closing the crossing points to Egypt and Jordan, and obstructing the donor states' efforts constitute an attempt to paralyze the work of the PNA, prevent it from establishing the foundations for the Palestinian economy, and obstruct its plans to establish a national economy and create economic development.

Following the Council meeting, Al-Tayyib 'Abd-Rahim, the Presidency's secretary general, told the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, that the Council discussed the security and political situation and the PNA's economic, financial, and administrative conditions.

Regarding the security field, the Council listened to a detailed report from the president on developments concerning the security situation in the areas controlled by the PNA and in the West Bank.

The president said there are plans for military operations to be launched from the areas controlled by the PNA. He added that there are instructions from abroad to use Gaza as the launch pad for these operations in order to embarrass the PNA.

The president revealed that the PNA is detaining some children who are under 10 years old. He said: These children are subjected to certain rituals by some charlatans, who put these children into coffins, make them descend into graves, and perform the prayers of the dead on them before sending them to carry out operations. They take advantage of the children's innocence and their family's poverty. Such charlatan acts conflict with Islam.

The president said there is a convergence of interests among certain forces inside Israel and certain coercions in the Palestinian arena to foil the DOP by carrying out certain operations inside Israel out of Gaza. He added: There are certain organizations within the Israeli Army

who now benefit from what certain parties in the Palestinian arena are doing, as was the case with the organizations that emerged within the French army prior to its withdrawal from Algeria.

The president warned against the presence of explosives among the people, stressing that the harm resulting from them will affect everybody. Therefore, he said, such a situation cannot be tolerated.

'Nationalist Forces' Ask Hamas To Stop 'Escalation'

JN0704150695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1158 GMT 7 Apr 95

["Press release" issued by "Palestinian nationalist forces and factions" in Gaza on 7 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tragic incident in the al-Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza, in which many people were either killed or injured, has caused alarm and panic among citizens. Despite this, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement has continued to escalate the situation through a series of statements that induce a vindictive spirit and call for revenge not only against the Palestinian National Authority but also against the Palestinian people and their national unity.

Despite all these unfamiliar and unlawful practices in the Palestinian arena, the Palestinian forces and factions have met to cool down the situation, maintain the security of the citizens, and stem any sedition that could break out within the ranks of our people. Consequently, a meeting was held between those forces and Hamas. The purpose of the meeting was to cool down the situation, maintain national unity, and stop the accusations and statements that seek to escalate the situation. At the end of the session, it was agreed to set another date to follow up on this issue. Hamas demanded that the meeting be held on Thursday, 6 April, at an office belonging to the Palestinian Democratic Union Party, FIDA. The first meeting was held at the residence of Shaykh al-Zahhar. All those who had taken part in the first meeting attended the second one, except for the Hamas representative.

Out of the eagerness of the Palestinian forces and factions to participate, they called Shaykh al-Zahhar to ask him why he boycotted the meeting. He said the Hamas leadership had made the decision to boycott the meeting, saying they were under great pressure to take revenge.

From a position of national responsibility, we ask Hamas to stop the escalation. We hold it alone responsible for any violations or practices that fuel sedition within the ranks of our people. We also call on Hamas to reembrace national dialogue and respond to the appeal of the Palestinian nationalist forces to contribute toward taking the necessary measures to dispel the tension that is caused by the Hamas accusations and statements.

We appeal to our great people, their institutions, and nationalist figures to stand firmly against this escalation in order to maintain national unity. We ask them to make efforts, along with the Palestinian National Authority, to enhance the development drive and proceed with the Palestinian national plan of independence and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Long live Palestinian national unity.

A statement issued by the Palestinian nationalist forces and factions in Gaza.

'Arafat Concludes Talks With U.S. Envoy Ross

JN0704154895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Begin recording] [al-Za'nun] President Yasir 'Arafat has concluded a meeting with Dennis Ross, special Middle East peace process coordinator. The meeting was held at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. Commenting on the meeting, Minister of Culture Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said:

['Abd-Rabbuh] Foremost among the main issues discussed was that of the closure and its destructive economic effect on the situation in the Palestinian areas and on the Palestinian-Israeli agreements. The two sides also discussed Israel's intention to build new settlement units. We stressed that this issue has very serious implications for the political process and cannot be accepted in any way whatsoever. We called for a U.S. stand to pressure the Israeli side to fully stop such settlement activities.

We also discussed the issue of economic aid. The U.S. side said it will make efforts to get donor countries to fulfill their commitments as discussed in the recent Washington meeting. We also discussed a number of bilateral issues. However, the main issues are those related to the closure, settlement expansion, and all aspects of the political process, foremost among which is the issue of the Israeli Army redeployment.

[Unidentified correspondent] The first thing the U.S. coordinator talked about was the security issue which he linked to the closure. Were there any U.S. demands regarding the security issue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There were no U.S. demands. The U.S. envoy conveyed Israel's viewpoint to us. We, in turn, explained that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is fulfilling its commitments and that security is a Palestinian interest for the sake of stability inside the PA areas.

As for the Israeli stand, it is clear that there is an Israeli policy to impose a siege under the name of separating the Palestinian areas from Israel. This policy has nothing to do with security. It is a premeditated policy because the movement of goods between us and Egypt and between

us and Jordan is being obstructed. This is not a security issue. It is an issue aimed at weakening any possibility or plan for Palestinian economic development. [end recording]

Cabinet Discusses Ross Meeting

JN0804143295 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1300 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority [NA] cabinet met under President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidency in Gaza today.

After the meeting, President 'Arafat said that one of the major issues discussed was the Israeli settlement activity. He asserted that this activity is a clear violation of what was agreed with the Israeli side.

President 'Arafat added: The Israelis are trying to make geographical changes on the ground. They frequently present us with new facts which we cannot accept.

Replying to journalists' questions, President 'Arafat said that the terrible explosion in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood last week, which killed six citizens, was a very serious incident. He added: We cannot accept that homes be turned into warehouses for various types of explosives. He pointed out that a large quantity of explosives was found at the scene of the explosion, and wondered what was indicated by the discovery of explosives and rockets made by the Israeli occupation forces.

The cabinet discussed a number of political, economic, and security issues in the NA areas, including the results of President 'Arafat's meeting with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross which was held at the presidency yesterday.

The cabinet also discussed the repercussions of the economic blockade Israel is imposing as well as the outcome of the negotiations on the legislative elections and reports submitted by the ministries.

'Arafat's Health Reportedly Causing Concern

AU1004101895 *Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German*
10 Apr 95 p 153

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Seriously Ill?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israelis and Palestinians are worried about the state of health of Yasir 'Arafat, 65. Visitors have recently reported that the PLO leader and head of the Palestinian autonomous government has frequently been absentminded and finds it difficult to concentrate. A secret report by the Israeli Embassy in Washington for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is now triggering speculation. Thus, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin from Chicago noted a "strong trembling of 'Arafat's hands and feet" during his visit to Gaza last week. The cardinal was quoted as saying that it was apparent that his interlocutor had tried to suppress the trembling. 'Arafat suffered a head injury during an emergency landing in the Libyan desert in April 1992. Two months later, several blood clots were removed from his brain in an operation at the King Husayn Hospital in Amman. A serious 'Arafat illness might endanger the peace process in the Middle East on a permanent basis. There is currently probably no one else who can convince the Palestinians of the benefits of the Oslo agreement.

Algeria

FIS Accuses Government of Killing Civilians

NC0704172395 Paris AFP in English 1338 GMT
7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 7 (AFP)—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) accused the Algerian government of killing thousands of civilians in its latest offensives against armed fundamentalists, the Arab daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported Friday [7 April].

The FIS said that security forces "resorted to aerial bombing which sometimes last for a full week on areas suspected of harboring armed camps," the London-based newspaper said.

"Indiscriminate bombing hits in particular the civilians living in these areas," the outlawed Islamist group said in its newspaper AL-RABAT, quoted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

The FIS cast doubt on government reports of a major defeat of Islamists in a massive army raid on the 'Ain Defla region in March, in which hundreds of militants were said to have been killed.

"Having failed to draw the political classes into the presidential elections campaign, the government is filling the air with shouts of imaginary victories," it said.

The FIS also implicitly criticized the Armed Islamic Group, a rival for leadership of the "jihad" or armed struggle against the state launched after the government annulled elections the FIS was poised to win in December 1991.

It said its military wing "does not consider itself the only framework for (jihad) in Algeria, but it is superior to all others in its complete adherence to Islamic shari'ah law."

The Algerian military is currently engaged in its biggest offensives yet against Islamic extremist guerrilla groups.

Meanwhile in Britain, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri clarified his country's rejection of the Rome accord in which European countries called for a dialogue to end bloodshed, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported.

"The refusal concerns the holding of conferences (about Algeria) abroad" and not necessarily the ideas that emerge from them, Dembri told Radio London [BBC], the newspaper said.

"A solution to the crisis must come by a national discussion by Algerians on Algerian soil," he said.

The foreign minister added that "a great number" of candidates were expected in elections planned later this year and that a ruling was being considered requiring candidates to gather 57,000 signatures before entering the race.

Zeroual Holds Talks on Elections With Party Heads**Meets With FFS Delegation**

LD0804135895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the Presidency of State and political parties and organizations on the presidential elections and all relevant aspects, enter their third week today. Thus, President Liamine Zeroual received at the Presidency today a delegation representing the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], led by its acting secretary general, Mustapha Bouhadeb.

The Presidency was represented by Mohamed Betchine, minister and adviser to the president of state; Ahmed Ouyahia, chief secretary; Youcef Khatib, the president's political adviser; and Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and official spokesman for the Presidency of State.

The FFS was represented by four national secretaries—Said Khelil, Seddik Djebaili, Ahmed Djedai and M'barek Mahiou. Our correspondent Nourredine Mousadek reports:

[Moussadek] The FFS is the fifth political party to be received by the president of state and the ninth participant so far in the bilateral talks on the presidential elections. The FFS participation is a positive sign, as since the FFS has been criticized for the policy of the vacant seat, or its boycott of meetings, which it has often adopted, particularly at meetings aimed at finding a solution to the crisis.

It seems that the FFS is entering the talks to make itself heard, in other words, it has come with proposals. If the FFS regards the holding of presidential elections as an approach which should be part of a comprehensive solution to the crisis, it has questions about ways to restore civilian peace and about measures of appeasement. The FFS also raises the question of partnership in the transitional period.

Dembri on Zeroual's Talks With FFS

LD0804204495 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual today received a delegation of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], one of the signatories of the Rome platform, together with the FLN [National Liberation Front] and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. These discussions, which come after a meeting between the head of state and the FLN, are being presented by the leadership as an advance in its position. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri explains exactly what the leadership expects of the meeting:

[Begin Dembri recording] All Algerians of goodwill are expected to make an effective and definitive contribution and to get rid of terrorism and violence from

Algerian society. That is the basis on which this national dialogue is being resumed, which, as you have been able to see, brings together parties that some months ago manifested a certain moodiness, perhaps. Today things seem to have returned to the dynamic of dialogue; this is something we encourage. It should go as far as possible and it should determine the big axes, a big national reconciliation in the country. It should affirm the principles of democratic construction in Algerian society, as well as its entry into a market economy. These are the stakes. [end recording]

FFS Official: Situation Precludes Dialogue

*LD0904182495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The acting secretary-general of the Socialist Front Forces [FFS] held a news conference in Algiers this afternoon, during which he viewed the national situation and progress in a national dialogue.

On behalf of [acting FFS Secretary-General Mustapha] Bouhadeb Beyli Sedik made a statement to national radio, stating that it was not possible at present to talk about elections unless we are able to eliminate the tragedy of the current security and political situation and return to a situation of civil peace, which he regards as the party's top priority.

Beyli said that his party had submitted proposals to the presidency to activate a dynamism that would enable us to achieve civil peace.

Zeroual Meets al-Nahdah Delegation

*LD0904140895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In order to deepen the political dialogue on the forthcoming presidential elections due to take place before the end of this year, the presidency has continued its consultations with political parties and organizations. Hence, within this framework head of state Liamine Zeroual received at his office today a delegation from the Islamic party al-Nahdah, which was led by its leader Abdallah Jaballah. [passage omitted]

One can, however, deduce from the statements made by a number of party leaders who had already been received by Zeroual that unanimous agreement on the need for the holding of presidential elections and proposals made by the various political parties and organizations have been sympathetically received by the presidency, particularly their proposal on the need to set up a committee to oversee the elections.

Al-Nahdah Submits Peace Plan

*LD0904181895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidency continues to receive successively the 15 parties and organizations

invited by it for bilateral consultations. Today, it was the turn of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement led by Abdallah Jaballah.

After today's meeting, Abdallah Jaballah said that agreement was reached on continuing the dialogue and to work toward a comprehensive political solution to the crisis.

Jaballah said that his movement presented a detailed perception, which he described as objective, phased, and balanced to resolve the crisis, and that the presidency had promised to study it and contact the movement to discuss and reply to it.

Jaballah said the perception was based on a number of principles to be adhered to by all sides—the authority and the opposition—and then a solution to be drawn in stages.

The first stage, according to Jaballah, was to re-establish the citizens' trust in the good intentions of the authority and the opposition to reach a comprehensive and fair political solution to the crisis. Jaballah said that at that stage the authority would be committed to a series of measures, and the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] would be committed to a series of measures at the same time.

The second stage, according to Jaballah, would be the re-establishment of peace, and the authority and dissolved FIS would be committed to a host of measures.

The third stage would be the return to normal constitutional life, during which a national meeting between the authority and the opposition would take place and agreement would be reached on a host of issues, including the structure of the transitional period, schedule of return to the electoral process, guarantees for respecting the elections' results, and freedom of the media.

Reportage on Foreign Minister Dembri's UK Visit

Briefs British Officials on Elections

LD0704123195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Political dialogue and the presidential elections due to be held before the end of the year have been discussed in London by Mohamed Salah Dembri. The Algerian foreign minister met with Douglas Hurd, his counterpart, and David Howell, the chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the House of Commons. Dembri stressed to his interlocutors the coherence of President Liamine Zeroual's strategy for putting an end to the crisis and said that the elections will open up the path to the reestablishment of the elected institutions at a national and a local level, and that this return to the electoral process should take place in conditions of openness and fairness.

Holds News Conference After Meeting Hurd*LD0704154495 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT
7 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Apr. 7, IRNA—A dialogue needs to take place between all political parties as soon as possible to overcome the current crisis in Algeria, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said Friday [7 April].

His promise was that there would definitely be presidential elections this year and legislative and municipal elections in 1996, claiming that the army-backed regime which seized power in 1992, stood for democracy.

The Algerian minister, speaking at a press conference in London, would not say directly if the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would be allowed to participate. Instead he conditioned its involvement only by integrating on the basis of pluralistic democracy.

Dembri, who is seen representing the public face of so-called conciliators in the Algerian regime, earlier held a meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in which he was said to have expressed optimism that Algeria was moving out of crisis.

The security forces, he claimed, were "winning the battle" against what he said was terrorism not civil war. He denied reports that over 40,000 people had been killed over the past three years, saying the number was no more than 10,000.

During the meeting, Hurd was said to have expressed his concern at the reports of violence and that the rule of law needed to be respected, but added it was necessary to "remove from extremists the basis of their support."

The crisis in Algeria started when the army intervened to prevent the FIS winning the second round of general elections in 1992, after scoring a landslide victory in the first round.

FIS leaders were subsequently arrested and have been held in prison ever since, while the party was banned, according to Dembri "legally."

Says Domestic Crisis To Be Resolved*LD0704191695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 7 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rome platform is now out of date after political parties that signed the document have favorably responded to the invitation of the head of state. This statement was made by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri at a news conference held in the Press Center in London today. The head of Algerian diplomacy considered that there was no justification at all for not taking all ideas in Algeria, and finding solutions between Algerians in Algeria. He emphasized that these parties were legal ones and active within the laws in practice in Algeria. Mr. Dembri stressed that building democracy would be in Algeria and not in

Rome, and he pointed out that the parties that signed the document constituted just a segment of the parties in the country.

Concerning the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], the foreign minister underlined that contacts were held in 1994 with officials of this party with a view to them contributing to the strengthening of national dialogue on the basis of respect for democracy, multipartism, and the constitution, and also on the basis of shunning violence as a means of attaining power or staying in power. He reaffirmed that, proceeding from these national constant principles, all the political formations would take part in the dialogue.

Regarding economic reforms, Mr. Dembri brought back to mind the completion of the annual plan in satisfactory conditions, and he stressed that the three-year agreement with the International Monetary Fund would enable Algeria to restore full economic equilibrium and to enter market economy. Regarding this question, the foreign minister emphasized that billions of dollars would be available in the next three years, which would be allocated for reinvigorating the production apparatus and looking at new forms of partnership. Mr. Dembri stressed that the upcoming adoption of the privatization law would allow for the contribution of foreign capital alongside public and private capital in Algeria.

To a question on the presidential elections and respect of its results, the foreign minister recalled the commitments taken at the highest level of the state, and the announcement that the elections would be held in the presence of international observers. He stressed that this was one of the pledges of the state.

Comments on Internal Dialogue, Arab Ties*NC0804200695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1702
GMT 8 Apr 95*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Hasan Zaytuni in London; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zaytuni] [passage omitted] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual is currently holding new consultations with some parties. What is the aim of holding these consultations at this particular time?

[Dembri] [passage omitted] In August 1994, President Liamine Zeroual sent an invitation to some parties for a dialogue on the necessary solutions to the various crises facing the country. After some difficulties emerged, he delivered a speech on 31 October 1994 in which he described the future horizons represented by the return to the election process. He defined the first step in this regard, which is the holding of presidential elections.

The dialogue is open anew. There are consultations on how to best organize the presidential elections and to define the horizon after the presidential elections. This is a work program that asks every Algerian who is sincere

about and who loves his homeland to make a contribution in this regard and to adopt national detente and reconciliation as a goal and dialogue as a program.

[Zaytuni] We noticed that President Liamine Zeroual has proposed the holding of presidential elections. On the other hand, the opposition has proposed other ideas, as incorporated in the so-called national contract reached in Rome. Is there a possibility of reconciling President Liamine Zeroual's ideas and the Algerian political opposition's ideas, particularly as you have mentioned that the Rome agreement has some positive points? [passage omitted]

[Dembri] [passage omitted] The authority under President Liamine Zeroual has an important role—achieving national detente on the level of the whole political spectrum. He invites all parties, all fronts and movements, and all national figures to participate in drawing the future horizon and at the same time strengthening the work to achieve national detente.

For these reasons, President Liamine Zeroual submitted to the political bodies only one condition—namely, respect for national and constitutional constants. What are these constants? Respect for the 1989 Constitution, defense of the supremacy of the law, including individual and collective human rights, and keeping the components of the state's national personality above political argument. Islam is innocent in Algeria. We Algerians belong to the Arab nation. Our personality is based on the Islamic religion. This requires that we take a collective stand on these constants, which also include respect for pluralism, changes in power, and discarding violence as a means to reach power and keep it. This is the only condition he has submitted. [passage omitted]

[Zaytuni] Mr. Minister, you have recently visited some Middle Eastern countries. What was the purpose of the visits, and how do the Arab countries you visited view developments in Algeria?

[Dembri] As an Arab country, we have relations with all Arab states. From time to time, we need to exchange views on issues that concern our common fate. We also need to offer ideas regarding the situation in Algeria as we see it. This is necessary. But all those visits, in fact, were related to the general problem the Arab public and all Arab officials are facing—namely, organizing the Arab house, especially after our recent meeting in the Arab League on its 50th anniversary. We in Algeria offered three ideas which appear to us to be part of a plan to maintain a unified Arab position. First, Arab reconciliation, but in its wider sense, and without ignoring the need for frankness. At the same time, we raised the need for realism: How, in our collective action, should we be realistic? This is because the Arab political discourse has at times been removed from the reality experienced in every Arab country. [passage omitted]

[Zaytuni] Are there signs of reconciliation and openness between Algeria and Morocco?

[Dembri] Yes. We have delegations now working to settle anything that may obstruct the advancement of the relations between Morocco and Algeria. Morocco is a fraternal country, and we are one family. There are issues related to property and families in each country; they need to be discussed and addressed politically. All these issues are being studied, and I think that in the next few months we will continue to work to reach final solutions.

[Zaytuni] You also visited Kuwait during your tour. This is the first time an Algerian foreign minister has visited Kuwait since the end of the Iraqi occupation. How did you find Kuwait's response?

[Dembri] It appears to me that there has been a misunderstanding between Algeria and Kuwait over the past few years. I met with the Kuwaiti media to explain things. Algeria's position on 2 August 1990 [the day Iraq invaded Kuwait] was clear. Algeria was the first Arab country to demand an immediate withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories. But at the same time, there were some other partisan activities: some parties supported Iraq, other supported Kuwait. This does not show any trend by the state. We also criticized the concept of "the adversary states" [Kuwait's reference to the Arab countries it considered to be sympathetic to Iraq], which leaves no room for reconciliation and frankness. [passage omitted]

[Zaytuni] We now move on to another sensitive issue in Algeria's relations with the foreign world—namely, Algerian-French relations, which are fluctuating, sometimes good, sometimes uncertain. France is about to have presidential elections. It is expected that Jacques Chirac will be elected president. Chirac's positions regarding Algerian developments are clear. What is being proposed by Algeria and France regarding Algerian developments?

[Dembri] As for us, Algeria is an independent state, and it has its own policy. It does not interfere in the affairs of others. But with France, we have much to feed our bilateral relations, preserve Algeria's interests in France, and negotiate with the French over these things. We ask all neighboring countries to respect us as a state and not to interfere in our domestic affairs. At the same time, all prospects for cooperation are open within a framework of mutual respect. This is our position. [passage omitted]

'Sons of Martyrs' Supports Presidential Elections

LD0804185395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Coordinating Committee of the Sons of the Martyrs organization has confirmed its support for holding presidential elections.

It called on all sincere people to work for a return to peace by way of earnest dialogue. It also decided to withdraw confidence from National Coordinator Moussa Touati and appointed (Benchioun) in his place.

In Guelma yesterday the organization ended its second seminar in the presence of representatives of 22 provinces.

Security Forces Eliminate 25 'Terrorists'

LD0804195095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services today managed to wipe out a criminal group that was hiding in a house situated on the road leading to the village of Ahl Laksar in the district of Bechloul in the province of Bouira.

The security services indicated that the raid was carried out following information from citizens on the presence of an armed group that used force to storm a private house at the above venue.

The security forces thereupon surrounded the house and were able to wipe out the group, which included seven terrorists, and recovered a quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Also, the security services today announced that its forces managed to eliminate 18 terrorists during a number of search operations in Algiers, Blida, Jijel, Chlef, and Mascara.

Egypt

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Official Dennis Ross

Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

NC0904090495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, arrived in Cairo from Israel this morning for a visit of several hours during which he will meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

He was received at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0904101595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, and his delegation.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting.

Leaves for Tel Aviv

NC0904142095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process, left Cairo for Tel Aviv today, following a visit to Cairo that lasted several hours during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who saw him off at the airport, said that the U.S. official briefed President Mubarak on his tour of the region, which took him to Syria and Israel, and on developments in the peace process on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks.

Dr. al-Baz said that Ross explained to the president the efforts the United States is making with the parties concerned with the peace process.

Dr. al-Baz was asked about reports that Syria and Israel have reached an agreement on a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He replied that this is untrue, but pointed out that U.S. efforts and consultations are continuing.

Mubarak Phones Rabin, 'Arafat on Gaza Attacks

NC1004053795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak today held several telephone conversations with the aim of containing the repercussions of the two sabotage incidents in the Gaza Strip this morning. The incidents left eight Israelis dead and 50 injured.

President Mubarak telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who condemned the incident and stressed the Palestinian Authority's commitment to combating terrorism designed to strike at peace.

President Mubarak also telephoned Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. President Mubarak offered him condolences on the victims of the two sabotage incidents. In his calls he stressed the importance of continuing the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians and stressed cooperation between the two sides to maintain security and stability.

Syrian Envoy on Upcoming Mubarak-al-Asad Meeting

NC0704173495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Ambassador to Egypt Dr. 'Isa Darwish, in a statement on his return to Cairo this afternoon from a short visit to Syria, said the Syrian-Egyptian summit between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad will be held

within the next few hours. He noted that the two leaders will assess the situation in the region, particularly the peace process, its progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and on the other tracks, evaluate the Arab and international situation in general, and discuss enhancing joint Arab action, notably in the Arab League.

Discussing President Mubarak's visit to the United States, Dr. Darwish said: We followed with interest President Mubarak's visit and his statements there. He said: We are sure of the Egyptian efforts to reach a permanent and comprehensive peace in the region, notably the Egyptian role in the region and in the peace process, and of Egypt's constant support for Syria's stance on peace.

Dr. Darwish stressed that Syria demands complete withdrawal from all the Arab territories and the establishment of a fair and comprehensive peace. He noted that President al-Asad expressed this stance more than once and that Syria desires peace, a fair and comprehensive peace, as Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said, everything in return for everything. He said this Egyptian stance supports Syrian rights and that the two countries' common understanding of the peace cause is undoubtedly a positive factor that may lead to achieving the goals we all seek.

Of the tour by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator on the peace process, Dr. Darwish said: After U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, we agreed to hold meetings between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington. He noted that these meetings reached a deadlock, as we have not received any Israeli expression of readiness to withdraw completely from Syrian territory and make progress on the Lebanese track. He said this was why the United States thought it had to send Ross to Israel to convince its leaders of an appropriate position. He said: We attach importance to the U.S. role. He added that the United States should realize that peace cannot be achieved in the region without Syria and that Israeli intransigence will affect the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and the whole peace process, and will foil it. He said: We are waiting to see the proposals and ideas Ross brings and what he has achieved in Israel.

Regarding Israel's stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Dr. Darwish said the Arabs must understand the Israeli stance on the Treaty, particularly those who are rushing prematurely to normalize ties with Israel. He noted that Israel established settlements on the Golan even after the peace talks began and that Israel is impeding implementation of the agreement it reached with the Palestinians in Oslo. He said it is not strange for Israel to launch satellites to spy on Syria and other Arab countries and to arm itself with nuclear weapons. He added: We still believe that Israel says one thing and does another. He said: We want a fair and comprehensive peace and to clear the region of weapons of mass destruction, because this is the key to peace.

Newspaper Views Meeting

NC0904085295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT
9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper notes that President Husni Mubarak's expected meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is yet another step in Egypt's continuous efforts to advance the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the various tracks.

In its editorial today, it says the meeting follows President Mubarak's important visit to the United States during which he discussed several political and economic topics: peace, renewal of the nuclear treaty, the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the West, and world issues.

The paper adds that the United States realizes full well that Egypt is the strong Arab voice of peace and that it is the key to peace in the region. Egypt declared that the glorious October war was the last and pressed ahead boldly with the first steps toward peace before the Arab countries became convinced of the peace process.

Mubarak Said To Make U.S. See 'Principled' Position

NC0704155195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Egypt Is an Important Pillar for Achieving Peace for the Middle East Peoples"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We were not being too optimistic to expect President Mubarak's trip to Washington and his talks there to be so successful in explaining Egypt's views on current issues, which relate to bilateral ties, regional security, and other issues Egypt believes will preserve peace and stability in the Middle East. The visit was prepared well and preceded by President Mubarak's contacts with various Arab and other leaders for consultation over regional issues that have pushed themselves recently to the forefront of events. These issues are particularly important since their adverse effects transcend borders and conflict with national interests.

Credit should be given to the Egyptian leadership for this success, which went beyond all expectations. The U.S. stance on the issues President Mubarak discussed with the U.S. Administration shifted from one extreme to the other. After the U.S. press and voices on various levels demanded a halt to U.S. aid to Egypt, the U.S. media competed to highlight Egypt's importance and leading role in the region. Writers who assailed Egypt only recently turned into advocates of Egypt's firm stance after President Mubarak laid out all the facts before them and after they ascertained that Egypt cares for the interests of all the region's peoples, without discriminating between those of the Arabs or Israelis.

Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee and one of Israel's staunch zealots, a man who strongly defends its excesses and interests in the U.S. Senate, stated, following his meeting with President Mubarak, that he never met any Arab leader with such popularity and power of persuasion. This confirms the Egyptian leadership's ability to contain crises, no matter how acute they may be, with prudence, calm, objectivity, and without any agitation that might waste rights, regardless of how legitimate they are.

The issue of Israel's failure to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was one of the important topics discussed during the visit. The flexibility and the objectivity with which President Mubarak has handled this crisis have earned him more respect and appreciation by the U.S. Administration, which supported Egypt's viewpoint, particularly as Egypt has clearly stated that it will not withdraw from the Treaty. Egypt was one of the 18 founders of this Treaty and has called on the entire world community to join it. In April 1990, Egypt called for freeing the Middle East in particular from all weapons of mass destruction, proceeding from its eagerness to preserve peace in this region and as a buffer against the possibility that the Treaty may not be extended when it comes up for renewal. Many countries, most importantly China, demand substantial amendments to this Treaty before it is put to the vote in New York on 17 April. Thus, Egypt has taken the initiative in calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the Middle East.

Despite the clarity of Egypt's firm stances and policies, some media have succeeded in clouding them and in portraying Egypt as a country that refuses to respond to a U.S. demand that, for the United States, means being able to establish the new world order. If what these media said was true, then U.S. aid should not be granted to a country opposing and conflicting with U.S. policy. But President Mubarak, using the clear and straightforward logic for which he has been known since his days as the commander of the Air Force persuaded the U.S. Administration and public that Egypt continues to call for and is the key to peace and stability in the region. As the president stated in response to a correspondent's question, Egypt is a voice representing 60 million people who have had a role in building both the ancient and modern civilization. With their support, peace—or otherwise, if needs be—can be attained.

Without misjudging it, the trip of President Mubarak and the high-level delegation accompanying him succeeded in constituting an element of pressure on the U.S. Administration and public, which, through President Mubarak and his delegation's efforts, learned all the facts and realized that Egypt's principled and firm position seeks peace, security, and stability for all the region's peoples. This position is based on objectivity, conviction, and the rebuttal of all arguments that try to circumvent the facts. Distortion of the facts is a futile exercise when the major players act.

Results of Visit Said To Appear Soon

NC0804151395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "What Did Mubarak's Recent Visit to Washington Achieve?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to the United States and his meetings with many U.S. decision makers at various levels, led by President Bill Clinton, proved beyond all doubt that Egypt speaks one, clear language that basically proceeds from firm pan-Arab principles. These principles are founded primarily on the interests of the people of Egypt and the Arab nation and their political and economic causes. The principles in which Egypt believes are stability, democracy, and the establishment of a just peace based on international legality. Such a peace necessarily requires that the Middle East be free of all weapons of mass destruction. After that, persistent work must be done to promote economic and social development and build a dignified life for people and secure a better future for the coming generations.

Mubarak's discussions with the American officials, to which the entire world listened, embodied all these principles and basic pillars of Egypt's policy. The talks centered on the issues of peace, security, and economic relations between Egypt and the United States. With this logic and clarity, therefore, it was not strange for the viewpoints of the Egyptian and U.S. presidents to be identical on many issues, as was stated during the news conference. Clinton said regarding Israel's nuclear arms that President Mubarak has a viewpoint that must be taken into consideration. He publicly announced that Egypt is the key to security and stability in the Middle East, and that its stability is the only guarantee for the security of this vital part of the world. President Clinton also praised Egypt's central role in the comprehensive peace process in the Middle East.

This U.S. position, in fact, did not proceed from a vacuum. It was a natural result of President Mubarak's propositions concerning all issues on the table. Mubarak reaffirmed that the Palestinian question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that a solution to it would open wide the door to possibilities for a comprehensive peace on all other negotiating tracks. He called on Washington to provide economic assistance to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. At the same time, Mubarak stressed to the U.S. Administration that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has a genuine desire to participate seriously in the peace process, but a just peace, not the conditional peace that Israel wants to impose on Syria.

Mubarak also called on Washington to adopt a fair and neutral position between the Arabs and Israel to protect the peace process, which is now an undeniable fact for everybody. This requires new U.S. moves to help Syria and Israel to continue the negotiations until the end. It also requires U.S. moves to convince Israel to commit

itself to and fully implement all clauses of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and not to embarrass the PA and obstruct its moves on the pretext of protecting Israel's security. Otherwise, Gaza will turn into another Afghanistan.

Concerning the Israeli nuclear armament, President Mubarak explained that Egypt is not against the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), after all, it is one of its member states. However, this membership should not be at the expense of the security of the people of Egypt and the Arab nation, who will remain threatened by the shadow of Israel's destructive weapons and its refusal to sign the NPT.

What remains is the U.S. economic aid to Egypt. Some people imagine that this could be used as a card to pressure the Egyptian leadership. But Mubarak announced that Egypt is successfully proceeding with its economic reform program and that it fully realizes that it cannot live on foreign aid forever. This helped develop economic relations between the two countries on a partnership basis, as recently agreed upon with U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Cairo.

These are the results of Mubarak's successful working visit to Washington. The positive results of the visit will immediately appear, especially as far as the peace efforts are concerned. Without doubt, the visit signalled the beginning of a new stage in Egyptian-U.S. relations. This will be proved in the coming days.

Paper Urges Economic Partnership With U.S.

NC1004081595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT
10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM states that Egypt has a right to reap the fruits of its political partnership with the United States in the form of an economic partnership, thus turning the Egyptian economy from an aid recipient into a productive economy that attracts investors, creates jobs, and possesses self-sustaining growth power.

In its commentary today, the paper notes that since the end of the October 1973 war Egypt and the United States have been working together to establish peace in the Middle East and rebuild their bilateral ties on this basis. The paper adds that U.S. economic aid to Egypt must be viewed within this context, as President Mubarak pointed out on his recent visit to Washington, where he noted that this aid was granted to Egypt and Israel on the basis of the Camp David Accord.

The paper points out that the Egyptian-U.S. political partnership has proved its worth in turning the course of history in the Middle East from war and enmity to peace as a strategic option for all the region's peoples. Were it not for Egypt's initiatives and extensive involvement, peace between Egypt and Israel or between Israel and both Jordan and the Palestinians would not have been possible, the paper adds. Similarly, the Egyptian role is

still needed to achieve progress in negotiations between Israel and Syria as well as Israel and the Palestinians, the paper notes.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM points out that these achievements have served the United States' interests as much as they have served the interests of the regional parties, including Egypt, which is now entitled to reap the fruits of its political partnership with the United States in the form of an economic partnership.

League's Silence on Turkish Invasion, Algeria Criticized

NC0804084795 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Mahfuz 'Azzam: The Arab League's Shameful Silence Over the Turkish Aggression]

[FBIS Translated Text] I read the Egyptian Government's newspapers all this week, hoping to find a report, a commentary, or an article on the Turkish Army's massacres and crimes in northern Iraq or the Algerian Army's ones in southwest Algeria. The killing of hundreds of Kurds in northern Iraq in air raids and military attacks with guns and rockets appears to be not worthy of attention or comment. Regrettably, attention and comments were shown by French and German papers and not by Egyptian and Arab ones, as if the latter are deaf and blind.

The strange thing is that this massacre in northern Iraq followed an armed attack by 35,000 Turkish troops backed by planes, tanks, artillery, and armored vehicles. Foreign news agencies and television recorded this terrible event.

The attack was no more than a military aggression by one country, Turkey, against another, Iraq. The aggression has been going on for more than one week, during which the Turkish forces occupied Iraqi territories in the north; killed civilians; and displaced thousands of women, children, and old people on the pretext of chasing the Kurdistan Workers Party.

The Arab League did not hold an urgent session to discuss the Turkish forces' invasion of Iraq like it did during the second Gulf crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. It did not discuss this aggression at its meeting in Cairo on 22 March. The Security Council did not meet to discuss the aggression. Neither the superpowers nor the smaller ones rushed to help the victim of the aggression as if international law, international legitimacy, and the new world order are applied only when the United States and its supporters want them to be. Not a single Islamic country has regrettably protested or even "denounced" this aggression, even though the noble prophet's words "whoever does not care about the Muslims' affairs is not one of them" applies to them. These words deprive anyone who takes a negative stance on Muslim issues and aggression against them of his Islamic identity.

The Turkish Kurds are, like the Iraqi ones, the victims of the ruling regimes chasing them in Turkey, Iraq, and Iran, even though the more than 12 million Turkish Kurds are in the majority in southeast Turkey.

The papers and writers, which have kept silent over this aggression against the Kurdish people in Turkey and Iraq, have also remained silent over the massacre reported by foreign news agencies and radios. This massacre was perpetrated by the Algerian Army in southwest Algeria in the past few days and claimed the lives of more than 1,000 civilians, who were killed or wounded in a military attack that involved all the Algerian Army's branches and armed forces.

All these crimes are taking place under the nose of the world that is singing all day long the virtues of human rights, the right to self-determination, democracy, and all the other glittering slogans that allow the white man to enjoy and practice them as one of the characteristics of Western civilization and deprive all other humans of enjoying them.

The Arab rulers, Muslims, and the regimes' writers forget that the Kurds are a Muslim people who have done the entire Islamic nation a great favor. It is enough for them to feel proud that Saladdin, the hero of Islam, liberator of Jerusalem, and conqueror of the Crusaders, was a son of this struggling people. These rulers and their papers also forget that the Algerian people, who are being killed and massacred now, deprived of their will, and have had a military government that usurped power imposed on it by force with the help of France—which occupied Algeria in the past—and other European countries are the same people that sacrificed a million martyrs in the battle of liberation and who set an example in patriotism, heroism, and sacrifice.

Paper Criticizes Turkey's Actions in Northern Iraq

NC0904085195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has criticized the ferocious Turkish campaign against northern Iraq to destroy the Workers' Party of Kurdistan bases.

In its editorial today, it says this Turkish campaign was not the first nor will it be the last as long as the Kurds live scattered without identity or a homeland, noting that every nation has the right to a homeland to live in.

It says the negative stance adopted by the European countries and the United States and Iraq's complete silence have aggravated this problem and have led to the killing of this people without achieving any notable result for any party.

Concluding its editorial, the paper emphasizes the need to hold a UN-sponsored international conference participated in by the Kurds and all countries that have

Kurdish-populated areas to achieve a peaceful solution satisfactory to everyone involved.

Ministry Plants 'Undercover' Agents in 'Extremist' Cells

NC1004073295 Paris AFP in English 2308 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Report by Hassan Mekki]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 10 (AFP)—More than 30 undercover agents have been planted into armed Moslem extremist cells here and abroad enabling Egypt to strike heavy blows against militants in the past months and prevent several attacks.

"When the terrorist attacks began in March 1992 we didn't have any information other than that most of their authors had just returned from Afghanistan," where they had fought against the Soviet occupation, General Mahmud al-Fishawi, the interior ministry's chief information officer, told AFP.

"When General Hasan al-Alfi became interior minister in the spring 1993, a plan was drawn up to destroy extremist cells by infiltrating them and uncovering their hiding places in Egypt and abroad," he said.

The plan "first began to bear fruit a few months later when we foiled some 20 attempted attacks and cleansed the capital of most of the hideouts," a police general who requested anonymity told AFP.

From April 1994 to March 1995, 198 militants and 116 policemen were killed, compared with 57 militants and 100 policemen killed over the same period in 1993-1994, according to an AFP toll based on police sources.

To successfully infiltrate the agent has to "pass himself off as a fugitive from a group wiped out in another area or as a sympathiser" of the militant umbrella-group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, the general said.

"To win the militants' confidence he provides them for several months with arms or information about prospective targets," said the general, who oversaw the infiltration operations.

"In the second stage, he recruits a member of the cell by promising him immunity if he cooperates. Generally the target accepts because he knows the group has been uncovered," he added.

Police have cited some successes of the operation, but Fishawi said the agents had foiled "dozens of attempts by militants which were not made public so we could break up other rings."

It was a turncoat Islamist who led police to 16 militants convicted of stabbing the winner of the Nobel prize for literature, Najib Mahfuz, on October 14 in Cairo.

The attackers were arrested within hours. Two of them were condemned to death by military courts and hanged.

Information from another collaborator prevented a suicide attack against the state security headquarters on September 13 during the UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, a high-ranking police officer said.

The infiltrators' latest success came with the arrest last week of 21 extremists in the slums of Cairo, the source said.

"Usually the arrests take place before the group carries out an attack and then our (agent's) mission is finished. To prevent reprisals against him we arrest him or issue a press release saying he was killed by police," the general said.

"Until now, our losses have been minimal but some missions were aborted when we thought our agents had been unmasked," he said.

"Planting an agent is easier in Cairo or abroad than in southern Egypt, where society is more close-knit," he added. "There, we prefer to recruit militants."

Battles between police and militants, which have left 728 people dead since March 1992, have centered on the southern province of al-Minya since last summer.

The capital has not seen any major attacks since April 1994 when police shot dead the Jamaa's military leader Tala't Yasin Hammam.

"Our successes have been so great that several European countries have asked for our help in breaking up terrorist groups on their soil," Fishawi said, without giving further details.

Unidentified Gunmen Kill Citizen in al-Minya Area

NC0704134995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT
7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Apr (MENA)—A man was killed in the village of Safay in the Abu Qurqas District of al-Minya Governorate in Upper Egypt today after unidentified gunmen fired at him and fled. A security source said Nabil Zaki Ahmad Hallaq was standing in front of his home when unidentified gunmen fired on him. Investigation agencies went to the scene to investigate and the prosecution office was notified to begin an investigation.

Police Sentry Shot in al-Minya Village

NC0904051995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—An auxiliary police sentry was martyred when unknown assailants shot him as he was coming out of his house.

An official security source said that the sentry is called Salim 'Aziz Farghali and is a resident of Qulubba in

al-Minya Governorate's Mallawi District. He served with the Bani Suwayf Police Station.

The source said that senior officials from Al-Minya Security Directorate and various other police departments left for the scene of the attack.

The Prosecutor's Office has been notified.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Assures Hajj Plans Despite Embargo

LD0704102895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1705 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Speech by Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi in Wadi Marsit on 6 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God. Brothers. Today, the Libyan Arab people—and standing behind them the Arab and Islamic world and the entire world—celebrate the 80th anniversary of the battle of Marsit, Khurmat al-Khaddamiyah, and Frutin [against Italian occupation forces]. Our celebration today in commemorating this historic battle takes place while the world is living through another stage in which the small nations still feel colonialism, tyranny, overstepping the limits and witness the desire to dominate nations, plunder their resources, and prevent them from leading a life of comfort and plenty. [passage omitted]

The small nations believed the West's story. This story came from the West and the West is the source of colonialism, the source of destruction and the source of tyranny against all the nations of the earth. Brothers, it turned out that this story was a lie and that colonialism does not have one specific era. Colonialism is repeated at any time so long as the conditions which encourage it are right. [passage omitted]

Today, while we are celebrating this historic battle we are not just celebrating it but we also want to say to the NATO alliance and to Italy, which is a member of this alliance, and to America, which is leading the NATO military alliance—we would like to remind them that this nation in 1915—their Julian calendar—on a day such as this, the Libyan people had very rudimentary weapons, they were starving, barefoot, living in economic conditions below the poverty line. We had no doctors, we had no electricity, no roads, no houses, but we scored an immortal victory over Italy's brute force in this valley on a day like this one at that time. [passage omitted]

It is an irony of fate. Perhaps there is a lesson to be drawn from the fact that the 80th anniversary of the Wadi Marsit battle should fall this year and at this particular time. We want to say to them; we want to say to them that we are fully aware of the ethics of the Western colonial powers. We know the ethics of Christianity. We know the culture of the West and the ethics of the West. We are a people who experienced the struggle with these barbaric forces. We do

not have faith in the integrity of Christianity or the culture of the West. They are barbaric and savage nations who came to the depths of Libya, to this valley, in an attempt to deprive the good and poor people of food, people who were living austere on the land of their fathers and their forefathers.

Rome came from across the sea lacking ethics and conscience to try and kill them and seize their food which they had farmed with their axes, food they had to carry on their backs and the backs of the donkeys and other animals so that they let their poor families survive. [passage omitted]

Italian soldiers came and took provisions of rice and macaroni. They did not need barley and wheat. If anything, this indicates that Western nations cannot be trusted. They are barbaric and without conscience and morals. The biggest lie is the so-called Christian morality, and the biggest lie is the so-called Christian culture.

This is not to be regarded as an abuse of other peoples; it is a fact. We used to believe, and we would have liked Christianity to have morals in the West, and we would have liked Christianity and Christian culture to exist in the West—we would have wished that. However, they have convinced us that there are no morals; no conscience, and no humanity in Europe and America, in the West as a whole. They have convinced us and they have convinced all the world's peoples; that these nations are barbaric.

If they have found a small number of hireling and cowardly rulers who came to power against the will of their people and through a series of coup d'etats and conspiracies and [word indistinct], and who are backed by the western and Zionist intelligence services—these agents who were installed by foreign quarters in the greater part of the third world, if they cannot say that Christianity has no ethics or that America is Satan, or if they cannot say that history repeats itself and that colonialism will be repeated, if they cannot say this because they are agents and because the foreign intelligence services put them in their positions—we cannot keep silent and not say the truth. We cannot or can never lower our voice these days out of fear of the fleets of America or out of fear of the NATO alliance or the fear of the might of Zionism and its nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

We want to say to them that today we are quite different from yesterday. Today, we are a rich people; a trained people, a people whose body fitness is excellent and whose morale is high, a people who possess enough arms to enable them to engage in a battle that would last scores of years. The stores are ready and will be opened on the day of confrontation.

Our celebration today is not as the Koran described the pre-Islamic pagans: Their prayers by the house [of God] were nothing but whistling and clapping of hands.

[Koranic verse] Our celebration today is not demagoguery or conventional. No, today we stand by this monument which immortalizes the battle [of Wadi Marsit] to demonstrate that we are capable of defeating the NATO armies, because we defeated the biggest power of that time, namely the Italian power, under circumstances which cannot be compared to the strong position we are in now. [passage omitted]

We have come here: all the coordinators of the popular leaderships, senior mujahidin [war veterans] who are still alive, the children and grandchildren of the mujahidin, and the martyrs from every corner of the Libyan territory, and the masses of Qiblah [as heard], to mark the anniversary of the battle, because there is a strong reason for that.

We are all, all Libyans, marking the anniversary of the Wadi Marsit battle, because in our challenge we have to follow the heroism, courage, and determination demonstrated by our forefathers at the [Wadi] Marsit battle, they fought with a small force against great Italian armies, with simple weapons against lethal weapons possessed by the Italians then. We make a challenge now with the heroism of our forefathers. We are now challenging those who are challenging us. We are challenging those who believe that their forces are capable of triumphing over the Arab nation merely by terrorizing this nation, or depending on a handful of agents, cowards who are prepared to compromise the Arab nation's honor for a handful of wheat from America [words indistinct]. America stopped the cultivation of wheat and corn in the Arab homeland, encouraged corruption and destruction and deliberately transformed it [the Arab homeland] into a consumer market to undermine the determination of the nation, and make it feel hopeless about its ability to live, so it would present itself on a golden platter to America again, to colonialism again.

America is leading colonialism with the aid of NATO. Do not rule out that history repeats itself, as one of the brothers said.

NATO is beating the drums of war. They are drawing up plans to make landings in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, and, if they could, in Syria and Iran. Plans are now being drawn for the landing of NATO forces in these countries. They have created bridges for landing in these countries. They have created the civil war in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia [as heard]. They involved Iraq in Kuwait, in order to destroy the military and industrial strength of Iraq. They are now hatching plots and creating pretexts to destroy Iran. They are trying to undermine Syria's courage and to subjugate it by threats and menaces, and by terrorizing and raising interests. [passage omitted]

They used pretexts in the past to occupy our land, and now they will create new pretexts. We have learned lessons from our history. We are not children; we understand their statements about Islamic fundamentalism, instability, and terrorism. In the past piracy was used [as

a pretext] instead of terrorism. When they wanted to occupy Darnah and Tripoli, they said that they were bases for piracy. Now, if they occupy them again, they would say that they are bases for terrorism. They believe that we do not read history, that we do not translate and read their books, and that we do not know their language to read their books. [passage omitted]

The Arab capital city where the Israeli flag is raised would be better off swallowed up by the earth, as the earth swallowed Korah [Croesus]. It would be better off inside the earth than out, the Arab capital that raised the flag of Israel, which advocates the occupation [of Arab land] from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Now you can see what has happened as a result of following the Western plan; Mecca is forbidden to Muslims. They used to say that Mecca was forbidden to Jews; now it is forbidden to Muslims. Who made the decision? The Western states made the decision. They have reached the extent of preventing the Libyan people from going to God's house. Witness the submission to their decisions.

However, we were patient for a long time, but we decided this year to go to the house of God directly whatever the consequences.

They waged the crusades, which represent a very important phase in the history of the world. The crusades occupied a very important place in the history of the world. [passage omitted]

Why did they wage the crusades? Everyone has heard of the crusades; anyone who reads must have heard of them. They said that Muslims were preventing the Christians from going to Jerusalem. Muslims were preventing Christians from performing pilgrimage. Because the Muslims were preventing the Christians from going to Jerusalem for pilgrimage, the whole of Christian Europe decided to march with its emperors, bishops, kings, and princes. It massed its popular and official armies and decided to open the road to Jerusalem whatever the sacrifice, because Christian Europe would not accept an obstacle between it and pilgrimage. This was the pretext for the crusades.

We can now say that America, Britain, and France—we are saying to Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, and the sons of the Arab and Islamic nations that America, Britain, and France are preventing Muslims from going to Mecca. If we do not fight and be martyred in order to open the road to Mecca, then Arabs and martyrdom will have no value. We now say to Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, the Arab and Islamic nation that America, Britain, and France came between Muslims and Mecca and if we do not fight that and become martyrs for opening the road to Mecca, there is no war and there is no martyrdom. In fact this is precisely the real jihad, this is jihad for God. We do not want our Arab brothers to violate the resolutions of the so-called Security Council, despite the fact that they are false and imposed by America, Britain, and

France and rejected by China and India who represent half of the world population. They were rejected by the OAU, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement. The overwhelming majority of the world's nations stood with the Libyan people. Despite the fact that this resolution is false, we never ask our Arab brothers to worry, be embarrassed in front of America or face threats, insults, or sanctions from America. We never want them to violate the UN Security Council's resolution, and they must respect the western UN Security Council's resolution until the final day of judgement.

We do not ask Saudi Arabia, Egypt, or Sudan to violate the resolutions of the so-called Security Council. No, no, pilgrimage is another issue and has nothing to do with America's resolutions because we do not want our planes to go to Egypt and we do not want Egypt's planes to come to Libya in case they would say: this is a violation of the Security Council's resolution. We do not want our planes to go to Tunisia, or Tunisia's planes to come to Libya. Also we do not want Sudan's planes to come to Libya or Libya's planes to go to Sudan. No, we have not asked that and we will not ask that even if the so-called Security Council lifts the blockade, we will not allow the planes of the Arab states to come or our planes to go out of generosity to the Arabs and so as not to embarrass them in front of America. We will show our Arab brothers [word indistinct] in the United States, even if the Security Council lifts the blockade, we will tell them: for your sake and so you can prove yourself to America, even if the latter lifts the blockade and you are still adhering to it, there will not be any flights between you and us for two, three, four or ten years so that the Arab rulers are proved to be more American than the Americans themselves. Good, we will not embarrass them or ask them to violate the Security Council's resolution or lift sanctions or anything else.

As for the pilgrimage issue, this is a question of life and death and will lead to a religious war, to a crusade war to jihad, and we will not hesitate on this at all, never. This is jihad for God, we do not go to Saudi Arabia for tourism, trade, economy, or politics, and we do not want to ask them to lift any blockade imposed on Libya. We will not go to Saudi Arabia, we are going to God's House and we will fight whoever stands in front of us. If they shoot down the planes, let them, we are ready to become martyrs. We will have our planes taking off every day and we will hire planes every day. We want a disaster to happen. Let Egypt, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia shoot down the Libyan planes carrying hundreds and thousands of pilgrims. Let this disaster happen. We want to become martyrs for the sake of opening the road to God's House. We must expose this farce, this farce must end. The fact that there is no trade, no planes or passengers ...[pauses] we do not want anybody to come from these countries or anyone of us to go to them. If they want to come to us, let them come on donkeys. They are welcome.

However, we are not going to keep quiet about attempts to prevent Libyans from flying to God's House to

perform their hajj duty. It is worth dying and giving one's life to prevent this. This is worth a new religious war and a new crusading war. This is the true holy jihad. We only want to go to Mecca; we do not want to go to Saudi Arabia.

Our brothers in Saudi Arabia should not worry. We are not going to embarrass them. They do not have to violate the Security Council's resolutions. Here we want to tell them this: Even when America lifts the embargo you do not have to follow suit. Instead try to convince her that Libya should face further punishment.

[Arabs] do not have, however, to reestablish their air links with us. Their planes should keep away from our territory. They do not have to send us any of their airplanes even when American, British, and French aircraft resume their flights to Libya. We do not want to embarrass Arabs; we want to give them an opportunity to show their loyalty to America by not embarrassing them.

And here we want to say this to them: No Libyan aircraft will be allowed to fly to any Arab country nor will their aircraft be allowed to come to Libya even when the embargo is lifted. [passage omitted]

Suddenly they began talking about insecurity in Somalia. They said the situation warranted their presence in the country. They said we had to go in to feed the hungry Somalis. Well, this was a good gesture by America, full of compassion toward the Somalis. But how was it that America suddenly remembered those poor and hungry Somalis and wanted to provide them with food and water? Well America managed to convince traitor Arab leaders with its rubbish about Somalia, but it can never convince us with its rubbish. America knew that there was oil in Somalia which had yet to be exploited. The Americans went there to occupy the Horn of Africa, which has always been a strategic place, so as to serve Israel's interests. America wanted to control the Horn of Africa before the Arabs could control it. America wanted it for the Israelis. [passage omitted]

America would have liked to stay in Somalia indefinitely. But she was defeated. She lost many aircraft and soldiers out there. Radio reports on the matter were inaccurate. America never admits losses. Did we not shoot down 15 of her aircraft when they raided us? But she only admitted the loss of two aircraft. America never talks about her defeats and losses; she keeps her mouth shut. She even refused to admit that the leader of the squadron which attacked my house was shot down and was killed in the crash. They never admitted his loss until we embarrassed them by producing his corpse which we handed over to the Vatican. [passage omitted]

Now they have created another problem in Algeria. The French and American intelligence have been working together against Algeria. They have been distributing money and weapons to see Algerians killing Algerians.

Can you imagine that 50,000 Algerians have died up to now. Doctors, teachers, farmers, workers, students, men,

women, imams of mosques, and journalists have died. The war is against whom? This means that it is a war against Algeria as a whole. Okay, they kill a journalist because they say he was insulting them, then they kill an imam and a girl studying in a secondary school, not because she insulted them but because she was studying. They have killed policemen and soldiers. Up to now 50,000 have died.

Colonialism which wants to return once again to Algeria, because there is oil and gas in Algeria, is behind this massacre in Algeria.

America said the day before yesterday that there is a threat to it because for the first time, 50 percent of its oil consumption comes from abroad. They calculated that by 2005, it will be possible that all American national consumption oil requirements will come from abroad. This means that America has an oil crisis and consequently wants to occupy the regions in the world where there is oil. Among these is Algeria. The scenario drawn by America and France for Algeria stipulates the landing of NATO forces in Algeria. [passage omitted]

They decided to wipe Egypt off the map, they drew up a plan which I handed over to our Egyptian brothers. The plan exists, it was written by American intelligence. We arrested a member of American intelligence who made confessions and gave us the documents.

[Word indistinct] were able to kidnap him and he was sentenced to 90 years' imprisonment. He is known, his name is Laurence. They wrote that Egypt must be divided in the interest of Israel into a Coptic state, an Islamic state, a Nubian state and an Arab state. Thus they would divide Egypt into four small states. [passage omitted]

We will never accept divisions between Arabs and non-Arabs in North Africa. Anyone who says otherwise must be crushed for he would otherwise create a hole in our ranks. We will all fight the enemy together, as one solid body. We need to fight the enemy together. Anyone who tries to undermine our solidarity through the creation of an opening in our ranks must be punished. The hand which tries to make such an opening must be severed. It does not matter who some people feel; we all Arabs. [passage omitted]

The whole Arab nation must be informed and there is at least one person who warns the Arab nation. There is at least one voice. I am ready to address a call to the Islamic nation if [word indistinct] the pilgrimage road. I will call on the whole Islamic nation and it will certainly stand by us because the road to God's House is now closed. Bangladesh, Pakistan, 200 million Muslims in India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Chad, Niger, five million blacks who are Muslims, Bosnia, Chechnya, the Caucasus, Albania, Kazakhstan, Iran, and Afghanistan should fight with us. If we address a call to all these Islamic peoples, I am convinced that at the end millions from them will join Libya and will open God's House even by force. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Trade Relations With Ukraine Discussed

LD0804132995 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Apr. 08 (MAP)—The evolution of trade relations between Morocco and Ukraine was surveyed at a meeting here between Moroccan External Trade Minister Mohamed Alami and Ukraine Vice-Foreign Minister Lipatov [name and title as received].

The two parties reviewed the state of bilateral economic and commercial ties as well as the economic reforms introduced by Morocco and Ukraine to liberalize their economies.

The Moroccan minister proposed the establishment of a legal frame to govern bilateral trade relations.

The two parties agreed to foster cooperation in matters of phosphates and convened to hold exploratory meetings between the two countries' experts.

Trade exchanges between Morocco and Ukraine reached 53 million dh [dirhams] (1 USD is 9 dh) in 1994 against 23.5 millions in 1993.

Sudan

Minister Views Carter Visit, Foreign Affairs

JN0904120295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Apr 95
p 26

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Samir al-Hijawi in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Hijawi] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visited Khartoum recently as part of his mediation efforts between the government and rebels. These efforts led to the conclusion of a two-month armistice agreement to which the rebels responded favorably. Would you please brief us on the details of Carter's visit?

[Taha] The former U.S. President's visit to Khartoum is one of many visits he has made in the past to Khartoum as part of his organization's plans to eradicate the endemic disease known as Guinean Worm, which affects people and animals alike, especially in the south. In order for him to be able to implement his preventive and therapeutic program, he sought to create a favorable atmosphere in which military operations would come to an end so that the project's technicians can carry out their job. Hence, Carter's efforts came to work out a cease-fire and an armistice agreement. The government has responded to this demand, first, out of its appreciation of the humanitarian efforts being exerted by former President Carter and secondly out of appreciation for the person of Carter and for his concern, which has been manifested during his

contacts with Khartoum over the past six years to establish peace in Sudan. Third, the government, by responding favorably to the cease-fire appeal despite the successes of its troops on all fronts, provides further proof of its genuine desire to settle this issue peacefully and politically. Therefore, the government believes that this would give those seeking greater confidence further momentum to revitalize contacts. Carter has no specific plan to institute peace now. However, suffice it to mention that he managed to silence the guns. Now, all parties should bear their responsibilities. All peace-loving parties, foremost of which is the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] countries and the Kenyan president, should exert greater efforts. Meetings should be held and opinions should be exchanged in order to arrive at an optimal means to terminate war once and for all.

[Al-Hijawi] But the IGADD countries' efforts have fumbled and were deadlocked. Has there been any new mediation effort by the IGADD countries?

[Taha] The IGADD countries' efforts have stumbled due to the stands of Eritrea and Uganda on war in Sudan—stands that lack objectivity and are conspicuously biased in favor of the other party, which they have openly hosted and provided with military, political, and media aid. However, we are confident that the IGADD countries, especially Kenya and Ethiopia, can exert efforts in this direction. The assignment is difficult but not impossible.

At the same time, the peace-from-within program the government launched on the basis of previous rounds of negotiations, starting from 1989 in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, and Abuja, has started to gain viability and is attracting attention inside and outside the country because it was based on points that were agreed upon earlier. Thus, the government has proven its credibility in adopting all that may bring viewpoints closer even if the final agreement has not been signed yet. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hijawi] What do you think is responsible for the hostile attitude adopted by the United States toward Sudan and its political system?

[Taha] Probably it is that many decision-making and opinion-shaping circles in the United States ignore the reality of what is going on in Sudan. In my opinion, this is the major reason for their stand. The second thing is that certain circles that are aware of this situation in Sudan fear Sudan because they realize that what is going in Sudan could serve as an example to others. Then, there is the U.S. interests in terms of political and economic hegemony over the region's destiny that will face a great challenge.

The third reason is that given its cultural background, the present Western civilization declines to recognize the role of Islam as an approach that can contribute to the formation of a world order, observing equality and justice and allowing cultural pluralism, which they talk about in other walks of life.

[Al-Hijjawi] Although Sudan was the main supporter of the Ethiopian and Eritrean forces that later took power, it has been noted that these forces have changed their position on Sudan and become hostile to it, and their relations with it have become tense. Why? Is there Sudanese interference in the internal affairs of its neighboring countries?

[Taha] Relations with Ethiopia continue to be good and are not tense. Our relations with them are based on cooperation and there are open channels with them in the form of ministerial committees and reconciliation forums, but there are pressures on all regional states to distance themselves from Sudan. This is a fact, and there are reports and organized campaigns to frighten and incite the suspicion of the officials in these countries concerning the broad social change taking place in Sudan.

As for Eritrea, in my assessment what happened was an attempt to find a scapegoat to divert attention from the problems facing Eritrea as a newly-independent country, and the challenges facing the shift from liberation to reconstruction requires huge resources and the people will not accept political and militant slogans alone, so an external factor was needed to draw sympathy. Attacking Sudan at present could be the way to receive compliments from some Western circles.

[Al-Hijjawi] What about the accusations leveled at Sudan of interference in Eritrea's internal affairs?

[Taha] No evidence has been furnished on this. For our part, we emphasized our respect for the peculiarities of all states, especially neighboring countries. It is illogical for Sudan to extend assistance to these states to obtain their free will and decide their political line and then change its position and destroys everything it contributed to. Sudan is eager to have model relations with these countries in which roles are integrated rather than contradicted.

The talk that Sudan seeks to form an empire or to expand and form an Islamic bloc in the region are illusions propagated by others in order to realize intentions and to create a gap between Sudan and these states in order to prevent the Horn of Africa from becoming a cultural, economic, and political force that has weight in regional affairs.

[Al-Hijjawi] But there are real Western fears of Sudan's ambitions to play a role in the Horn of Africa.

[Taha] Sudan has ambitions to play a role in its region, continent, and on the international level. This is a legitimate ambition which employs legitimate means such as dialogue and offering ideas that we think can solve crises from which the world suffers at present in the field of political relations, world peace, military balance, and social development, etc. Sudan is not following any means to overthrow regimes or sow discord and disorder. We believe that the fire will spread to the house of the one who sets his neighbor's house aflame.

[Al-Hijjawi] What is your position on the developing Eritrean-Israeli relations and the talk about renting the island of Dahlak in the Red Sea as an Israeli military base?

[Taha] We believe that Israel has an expansionist plan to control the whole of this region because, according to Israeli claims, it is part of the Israeli's greater national security. We are aware of the dangers of this expansion in the region and we seek to confront it with our brothers and neighbors who share this assessment. However, as we directly told the officials in Eritrea and others, we think that the subject of their relations with Israel is something that concerns them and we will not employ any sort of pressure to change their decision.

[Al-Hijjawi] How are Sudanese-Egyptian relations, especially since the Sudanese opposition is based in Cairo? And what are the latest developments concerning Hala'ib?

[Taha] Differences in views continue with Egypt on Hala'ib and the Sudanese opposition in Egypt, and on other issues. During our last meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister, we did not discuss these issues in detail because the meeting was held to reach some sort of agreement to improve the situation and exchange views on a mechanism for dealing with these issues without indulging in details. According to this concept, the meeting had some positive results. However these is still a difficult task ahead of us, which is dealing with the subjects themselves and trying to find solutions to them. This depends on the goodwill of the two parties. After launching the initiative ourselves, we expect that the Egyptian side will visit Khartoum, as it has been agreed, in order to discuss the hotly contested issues. [passage omitted]

Sources Report 'Outlaws' Violate Cease-Fire

EA0704163295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources at the Foreign Ministry have told the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY that the outlaws have been violating the cease-fire declared by the government on 28 March, which they subsequently approved.

The source [as heard] confirmed that on 30 March, the outlaws attacked Marial-Yei station from the east.

On 31 March a [words indistinct] which was heading from Juba to Kapoeta was surrounded and looted.

On 4 April the outlaws ambushed a force on the move 9 miles from Yei. On the same day, they ambushed a unit of our forces 2 km east of Amadi camp.

On 5 April, a group of outlaws infiltrated the (Atwai) area, near Nimule.

On 6 April, the outlaw movement attacked Gogrial, Northern Warab State, inflicting some losses on the local citizens.

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The source added that the outlaws were continuing violations of the cease-fire despite the government's declared stand on the issue and its total commitment to the cease-fire.

Western Sahara

Morocco Efforts Seen as 'Blackmail Attempts'

LD0804092695 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Statement by the Information Ministry of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic on "the blackmail attempts made by the Moroccan authorities toward the European Community in their negotiations for renewing the fisheries agreement"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations continue between the European Community and Europe aimed at signing a new fisheries agreement which would replace the accord expiring on 30 April 1995. Morocco tries, by any means, to snatch a political stance from the European Community with the aim of legalizing its illegitimate occupation of parts of Western Sahara.

The Information Ministry statement reminds the European Community that Morocco has no right to negotiate about exploiting the natural resources of the territorial waters of Western Sahara, in accordance with international conventions and peoples' rights.

The presence of the United Nations in Western Sahara to help organize a referendum on the Saharan people's self-determination gives the European Community the opportunity to work toward the implementation of the UN-OAU peace plan.

The Information Ministry statement adds that the Moroccan plan, based on blackmail, aims at dragging the European Community to adopt stances which are rejected and opposed by the international community. Thus, the European Community is called on, in accordance with international conventions and laws, to reject any attempt which are aimed at harming the Saharan people's rights, and exploit the resources of their country.

The statement says that the Popular Front of El Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro calls on the European Community to oppose all attempts of blackmail made by the Moroccan Government, and to record its stance on finding a solution to the conflict on Europe's doorstep by calling for direct negotiations within the framework defined by the United Nations.

Saudi Prince Sultan on GCC Joint Defense System

LD0904213995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, the second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and aviation and inspector general, indicated that his visit to the sisterly state of UAE [United Arab Emirates] came within the framework of continuous cooperation. His highness made this statement during a news conference in Abu Dhabi at the end of his visit to the UAE.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Highness, one of the resolutions of the recent GCC summit was to settle border conflicts between the GCC countries. What is to be expected from the leaders of the GCC member countries to implement this task?

[Al Sa'ud] Whatever had been said by our leaders during the Bahrain summit is being implemented now. Time is needed for this to reach an end. However, everything is going forward, thanks be to God.

[Correspondent] Your Highness: The GCC countries are carrying out a study to set up a joint gulf defense system. How far have they gone in these efforts?

[Al Sa'ud] We are going to meet next Tuesday to follow up this issue as directed by the summit. I believe that work will in fact start in 1996 according to the summit leaders. We are following up the past work and whatever should be completed this year.

[Correspondent] Your Highness: What is the outcome of your visit to the UAE?

[Al Sa'ud] Amity, brotherhood, and cooperation.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, have talks tackled the role or the activation of efforts [word indistinct] through the custodian of the two holy mosques and his highness, Shaykh Zayid?

[Al Sa'ud] In any case, I do not qualify myself as an activator. The fact is that the leaders are being active in many ways to settle issues. The reality is that there is nothing that calls for concern regarding these issues. All the GCC countries understand each other and have brotherly relations. Conflicts are always a result of serious work. [sentence as heard].

[Correspondent] Your Highness, regarding the issue of the Saudi-Yemeni agreement, what is your assessment of this agreement and the role of the committees?

[Al Sa'ud] Assessment is in the outcome. Work is continuing as well as one can expect. The committees will meet, God willing, in one week, bearing in mind that the military committees started two weeks ago. Things are going well, God willing. We and our brothers in Yemen are brothers and neighbors and working together for the good of the two countries.

[Correspondent] Following Qatar and Bahrain's acceptance and welcome of the mediation of the custodian of the two holy mosques to settle the border conflict, are you expecting the UAE to support the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques to this effect?

[Al Sa'ud] All the GCC countries support this request, and we hope to reach good results for the two countries. [end recording]

Bahrain

Amir Receives Algerian Finance Minister

JN1004103595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 10 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, this morning received Algerian Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour.

The Algerian minister conveyed the greetings and wishes for continued good health from Algerian President Lamine Zeroual to his highness the amir, as well as his wishes for further prosperity and progress for Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

South Africa's Mandela Arrives for Official Visit

Visit To Strengthen Trade Ties

MB0804193295 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President Mandela arrived in Kuwait today at the beginning of a five-day visit to the Persian Gulf. The aim of the visit is to strengthen trade and cultural ties with the region and to enlist support for the Reconstruction and Development Program. Linda van Tilburg and cameraman Rudi le Roux report:

Kuwait, the country which was a target of Iraq in August 1990, was the first stop of President Mandela on his five-day visit to the Persian Gulf. The country's head of state, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, today became the first Persian leader to officially welcome the South African president in his country.

The Kuwait Government has expressed interest in investing in South Africa, and there are also banks which are considering coming to South Africa. They will possibly help in the Reconstruction and Development Program, and in return, South Africa is offering manufactured goods and technological expertise. One of the fields in which South Africa can help is water purification. [passage omitted]

Says Iraq Policy Bound by Resolutions

LD0904185895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1607 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City 9 Apr, KUNA—Visiting South African leader Nelson Mandela has condemned Iraq's decision to keep Kuwaiti nationals lingering inside its prisons four years after the end of the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

Mandela said, at a news conference held today: "It is wrong for a country to keep another country's nationals as prisoners once war has ended between them." Replying to a question on what efforts can South Africa bring to bear [upon Iraq] for the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners he said, however, that he would prefer "concerted collective efforts" in this respect.

He added that his government believes that the problem of the Kuwaiti prisoners, who are still kept hostage in Iraqi prisons, is a major one but thinks, nonetheless, that such a problem should be better tackled by recognized organizations, such as the United Nations.

Mandela pointed out, however, that his country was guided in all its dealing with Iraq by the UN Security Council resolutions, and insisted that future relations with Iraq will not be any different.

Mandela pointed out that his talks with the Kuwaiti officials, led by the amir, were "fruitful," and that he had examined with the latter a number of issues of common interest.

He pointed out that he had also examined with the amir the establishment of economic and cultural ties, and that agreement was reached on all topics discussed.

Mandela revealed that a number of trade contracts will be signed between the two countries in the near future. [passage indistinct]

He said that he did not expect Kuwait to financially contribute to his country's reconstruction at present due to the heavy cost inflicted on it in reconstructing the destruction that resulted from the Iraqi invasion.

He said: "However, Kuwait is contributing currently in major projects in South Africa or playing a major role in the reconstruction operation there." He expressing deep sympathy toward Kuwait and the destruction it had suffered.

He said that he had discussed with the Kuwaiti officials means of increasing trade exchange between the two countries to serve their interests. [passage omitted]

He said: "We have achieved peace and stability in our country and managed to reduce crime and political violence.

Regarding arms trade with the Gulf states, Mandela said: "We are ready to sell arms to any country as long as they are not used to suppress peoples."

On South Africa's nuclear relations with Israel, [words indistinct] has cancelled all military nuclear projects that were undertaken by the former apartheid regime with Israel, stressing that there was no cooperation at present between Israel and South Africa in this field.

He added that as one of the national liberation movements, the ruling ANC [African National Congress] party in South Africa was opposed to mass destruction

arms and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, underlining that all nuclear projects [in South Africa] have been transformed to peaceful purposes.

Views IFP Withdrawal, Ties With Iraq

MB0904192595 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Kuwait today, President Nelson Mandela asked the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] to put forward its demands for international mediation. On the second day of his visit to the Persian Gulf, he sharply criticized the IFP's decision to withdraw from the Constitutional Assembly.

[Begin recording] [Mandela, in English] As far as we are concerned, there is no justification for the action by the IFP, because we have made it clear that we are not against international mediation. But we have called upon them to indicate to us specifically what issues require international mediation, because, in our view, all the issues we referred to in our agreement have been addressed by the interim constitution. But if Inkatha can spell out precisely the issues on which mediation is required, then we will definitely meet them on that basis. But until they do so, it is not likely that we'll ever meet them at all.

[Correspondent Linda van Tilburg] Most of President Mandela's day was devoted to talks with high-ranking officials in Kuwait. This included the Amir Shaykh Jabir Ahmad al-Sabah and the country's business chamber. Mandela told the amir he wants to make South Africa more investor-friendly and wants to cut out unnecessary red tape for foreign investors. Kuwait indicated that future ties with South Africa will be aimed at assisting black businessmen.

On possible assistance with the Reconstruction and Development Program, Mandela said that Kuwait indicated that its program of post-war reconstruction makes it difficult to provide development assistance to other countries.

This morning, Mandela's Kuwaiti hosts showed him the extent of the destruction caused by the Iraqi invasion in August 1990. Mandela said that he is prepared to establish ties with Iraq despite Kuwait and other Gulf countries' hostile relationship with that country. He said South Africa wants to establish ties with all countries in the world despite their domestic policies. [end recording]

On the establishment of ties with Iraq, Mandela added that South Africa is a member of the United Nations and will be guided by Security Council decisions.

Discusses Relations With Amir

LD0904120595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1000 today His Excellency Nelson Mandela, the South African president, paid a

visit to His Highness the Amir of the country at Bayan Palace where they held official talks.

Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the minister of the Amir's office said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and they centered on a number of vital issues in the African continent. Latest developments in the international arena were also discussed.

The talks were dominated by a cordial atmosphere characterized by understanding and the spirit of friendship.

Iranian Speaker Leads 'High-Ranking' Delegation

LD0904190095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, arrived in Kuwait this afternoon at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation at the official invitation of the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker. Our correspondent in Kuwait reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Majles speaker Nateq-Nuri arrived in Kuwait this afternoon and was welcomed at the airport by Mr. 'Abd al-Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly; and other Kuwaiti officials. After the arrival of Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the two countries' parliamentary speakers took part in a joint news conference.

Mr. Al-Sa'dun expressed his appreciation of Mr. Nateq-Nuri's visit and described the trip as an important factor contributing to the expansion of the two countries' relations. Mr. Al-Sa'dun referred to Iran's efforts toward the establishment of security and stability in the region and described Iran's role and stance in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as brave and wise; he praised the position Iran had taken.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, for his part, referred to the need for cooperation between the two countries and spoke of the trip as an important factor contributing to the expansion of ties between Iran and Kuwait. He said that, in his meetings with Kuwaiti officials, he would discuss ways in which relations can be expanded, as well as important issues relating to the region and the world of Islam.

During the Majles speaker's three-day visit to Kuwait, he is being accompanied by the ministers of housing and urban development and mines and metals, the head of the chamber of commerce, several deputy ministers, and a number of Majles deputies.

Perry Remarks on 'Iranian Danger' Played Down

LD0904121995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1133 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran—In press statements released here today Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad 'Abd al-Aziz al-Sa'dun stressed the importance

of direct and outspoken talks between the Arab Gulf states and Iran to solve and overcome the disputes between them.

In an interview to the newspaper HAMSHAHRI, al-Sa'dun stressed the need to continue the meetings between officials of the countries of the region to solve current differences and to strengthen the joint cooperation between them and to foil the opportunity of foreign powers that try to realize their aims in the area—aims that at times are in conflict with the objectives of the states of the region themselves. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question about the statements of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry recently in which he warned the states of the region against what he called the Iranian danger, al-Sa'dun played down the importance of Perry's statements, pointing out that the American officials have always raised these questions during their visits to the State of Kuwait.

Al-Sa'dun said that at the time when we listen to what others are saying the Kuwaiti decision remains independent and is not influenced by such statements. [passage omitted]

On giving women the right to vote, al-Sa'dun confirmed that he supports "granting women the right to vote" and he noted that the assembly's committees are still debating this matter, which is arousing argument from all its aspects.

Finance Minister: State Must Increase Revenues

LD0904203495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1831 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 9 Apr (KUNA)—Nasir al-Rawdan, the Kuwaiti second deputy prime minister and finance minister, today said that the government was endeavoring to end the budget deficit by improving the capacities of marketing oil and finding new positions in international marketing strategy.

In his opening speech to the second symposium of Kuwaiti economists held under the slogan "The Instruments of the Financial Policy To Face the Budget Deficit," al-Rawdan added that "the government is about to draw up economic policies to improve non-oil revenues by adopting financial policies aimed at increasing revenues with the imposition of duties which would have positive results on the budget and public revenues. [no closing quotation marks as received] [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Visits Beijing

WA1004153095

For reportage on the visit by Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah to Beijing, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 6 April China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Suffering From 'Minor Indisposition'

LD1004093195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT
10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 10 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, telephoned his brother His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, yesterday to inquire about his health following a minor indisposition the prince suffered as a result of flu.

May God protect his royal highness the crown prince and give him good health and vitality.

United Arab Emirates

Minister: Middle East Bank Not in Arabs' Interest

JN0904163795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT
9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Apr (WAKH)—Ahmad al-Tayir, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has warned that the proposed Middle East development bank is not in the interest of Arab economies. He noted that this bank goes beyond the provision of financing since it calls for the opening of Arab markets for Israeli capital, labor, industry, and services sector. The bank, he added, also aims at linking the Arab economy to the outlets of the Israeli economy.

In a statement to the Emirates News Agency, WAM, on the occasion of a meeting to be held by the boards of directors of joint Arab financial institutions in Muscat on Tuesday [11 April], al-Tayir said that he called on the Arab finance ministers to discuss the repercussions of such action. He said that during their meeting, the Arab ministers of finance should stress the importance of joint Arab action to avoid turning Arab accomplishments into projects and programs that do not serve Arab development.

He said that a Middle East development bank has the appearance of a bank, but its objectives do not serve Arab economies. He added that this bank's objectives go beyond the provision of financing to opening Arab markets for Israeli capital.

He stressed the importance of discussing this issue at the meeting of the ministers of finance and economy to show the effects and dangers which threaten joint Arab (?action) by proposing such projects.

Ahmad al-Tayir said that the meeting by the Arab ministers of finance and economy in Muscat acquires special importance because the conferees will discuss the outcome of these institutions' operations and programs they have accomplished during last year. This is especially since these institutions were established in order to finance economic and social development programs and projects and to increase employment opportunities and trade between Arab countries which need financing for their development programs and projects. This is done through the loans these institutions provide for these projects and programs or through facilities to support the balance of payments in Arab countries, as well as Arab investments and exports. This is in addition to investing in the agricultural sector and food security projects.

He said that the resources of these institutions exceed \$10 billion and their transactions reached approximately \$26 billion. This underscores the major role these institutions play in facing the requirements of Arab development.

Yemen

Salih Discusses Relations With Saudi King Fahd

JN1004061795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the context of permanent contacts between brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of fraternal Saudi Arabia, the brother president yesterday telephoned his brother the custodian of the two mosques. They discussed fraternal ties between the two sisterly, neighboring countries and means to improve them to serve the common interests of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples and to strengthen the climate of security and stability in the region.

Salih Arrives To Inspect al-Hudaydah City

JN0604182795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, arrived in the city of al-Hudaydah this afternoon for an inspection visit. The president will inquire about the situation of citizens and their problems and ambitions. He will also inspect the progress of work at the offices and agencies and projects in the governorate.

The president was received by brother Muhammad al-Khawi, al-Hudaydah governor, and other officials in the governorate. The president is accompanied by brother Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, minister of transportation; Muhammad al-Yadumi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping; and other officials.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Regional Issues**Views Christopher Comments on Turkey***JN1004073195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT
10 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—Iraq has stressed that the Kurds' rights and security can be guaranteed by stopping interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman today told INA that the so-called Hammer Force, founded particularly by the Americans and the British, is one of the facets of interference in Iraq's affairs.

Commenting on statements by the U.S. secretary of state following his meeting with the Turkish foreign minister in Washington on 5 April in which he said that his country's support for Turkey hinges on its respect for the commitments it made regarding the duration of its military operations in northern Iraq and its respect for human rights, the Iraqi spokesman said: A concern for human rights requires, before anything else, a call on Turkey to immediately withdraw its forces and the return of the legitimate government to fulfill its mission to protect the lives of innocent citizens.

The spokesman said: The U.S. secretary of state's statements were not the product of an awakening of conscience or an understanding of the difficulties and tragedies facing our Kurdish citizens in northern Iraq. That statement was the result of the large-scale international condemnation of that invasion and the isolation in which the United States found itself because of the excuses it gave for the Turkish invasion, especially after everyone became aware that these troops have committed serious violations of human rights.

The spokesman added: The most prominent of these human rights violations is the murder of four children and a woman in the Zakho area, the murder of seven innocent civilians in Dahuk, and the displacement of many Kurdish citizens. Additionally, a large number of Turkey's Kurds took refuge inside Iraqi territory.

Demands Complete Turkish Withdrawal*JN0904152795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT
9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—Iraq announced today that it regards the redeployment of some Turkish military units in northern Iraq as an attempt by Turkey to mislead public opinion and contain the massive international condemnation of its invasion of Iraqi territory.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman has commented on statements made by a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman and a Turkish military spokesman yesterday to the effect that Turkey had begun to withdraw part of its troops

from Iraqi territory in fulfillment of its promise that its troops would not remain on Iraqi territory. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the extremely limited withdrawal of Turkish invasion forces from northern Iraq was not a step toward complete withdrawal from Iraqi territory, but was in fact a routine military measure in which some Turkish military units were relieved by others.

The spokesman added that the Republic of Iraq rejects all partial withdrawals, and demands that the Turkish Government completely and immediately withdraw its invasion forces from Iraqi territory.

Attacks Turkish Statement on Refugees*JN0904105995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT
9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA)—An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has emphasized that the extraordinary situation in northern Iraq has created a political vacuum that encouraged traitors among the Iraqi Kurds to control the region and carry out terrorist actions against citizens.

Commenting on a statement by the official spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry on the Turkish relief assistance in northern Iraq and the refugee camps, the spokesman said: Due to these conditions, the citizens have been forced to leave their homes and villages, and thousands of them are now at the mercy of international assistance.

The spokesman added: The extraordinary situation was caused by the aggression launched by the United States and its allies against Iraq, and the adoption by these allied states of unilateral decisions that are not based on international law, represented in the banning of Iraqi flights north of Parallel 36 and the deployment of U.S. forces in southern Turkey.

The spokesman said: The military operation against the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party in Anatolia led to the immigration of Turkish citizens living in that area. The Turkish invasion of northern Iraq also led to the immigration of thousands of our citizens to areas far from their original homes out of fear of repressive practices. This forced the UN High Commission for Refugees Affairs to extend humanitarian assistance to them.

The spokesman described the assistance the Turkish Government claims it extends to the refugees in northern Iraq away from the central government as a form of interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

He said that making such statements at this time is a failed attempt by the Turkish Government to provide a cover for its invasion of Iraqi land and its violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the sanctity of its lands, which endangers the security of its people.

He added that such assistance does not restore security and stability to the refugees and that security and stability are maintained through confronting the causes of

this immigration and putting an end to the colonialist U.S. interference in the affairs of the area, of which the Hammer Force deployed in Turkey represents one of its ugly faces, and through the return of the legitimate authority to northern Iraq to shoulder full responsibility for security and stability in the area.

Assails 'Serious' Turkish Violations

JN0804191995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—Iraq has denounced the invading Turkish forces' serious violations of the humanitarian international law in northern Iraq.

Commenting on news agency reports that a number of Iraqi Kurdish citizens were killed as a result of the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq, including four children and a woman in Zakho and seven civilians near the city of Dahuk, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA today: The Government of the Republic of Iraq reiterates its denunciation of this invasion which constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the UN Charter and principles, and rejects any justifications or pretexts which would absolve the Turkish forces of their responsibility.

The spokesman added: This number of victims proves anew the immense dangers facing innocent civilians and refutes the Turkish claims of protecting the citizens from the dangers of invasion.

The spokesman said: The Government of the Republic of Iraq holds the Turkish Government fully responsible before the international community for its aggression against Iraq, and for the ensuing aggressive actions against Iraqi citizens, and calls on it to withdraw its forces immediately and comply with the principles of the humanitarian international law.

Denounces Turkish Visit to North

JN0804185995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—Iraq has strongly denounced a visit by a Turkish Foreign Ministry team to northern Iraq and the talks it held with some Iraqi Kurdish traitors with the aim of establishing cooperation with the invading Turkish force to guarantee the security of Turkish borders.

In a statement this evening to INA, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Government of the Republic of Iraq strongly denounces this visit and the establishment of contacts with outlaw Iraqi groups.

He added: Such an act constitutes a clear recognition of these groups and encourages them to pursue their suspect schemes. It also reflects the double standards which Turkey is employing when dealing with the Kurdish issue.

The spokesman added: While Turkey considers its Kurdish citizens who are affiliated with the Kurdish Workers Party terrorist, outlaw elements and gives itself the excuse to pursue them inside the Iraqi territory, it cooperates with terrorist Iraqi Kurdish groups, thus encouraging them to pursue their criminal schemes against the legitimate government.

The spokesman said: This visit is part of a series of Turkish encroachments against Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The threats resulting from the abnormal situation in northern Iraq can only be faced by direct cooperation and constructive and frank dialogue with the central government in Iraq and by putting an end to the colonialist intervention in the region, an element of which is the so-called Hammer Force that is stationed on Turkish territory.

'Aziz Meets Security Council President in New York

JN0704193195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT
7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, United Nations, 7 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here today with Czech Ambassador Karel Kovanda, president of the Security Council for this month.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Calls Statement on Draft 'Incorrect'

JN0804100095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0858 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 8 Apr (INA)—In statements to journalists at the United Nations yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz commented on statements by Czech Ambassador Karel Kovanda, president of the UN Security Council [UNSC], in which he said that Iraq is prepared to accept the U.S.-British-Argentine draft.

Tariq 'Aziz told journalists that he heard that the UN Security Council president informed the press after their meeting that he accepted the Argentine draft resolution. He said that was the UN Security Council president's own assessment.

Tariq 'Aziz said it was quite astonishing to hear that incorrect and misleading statement.

Tariq 'Aziz added: What I explained to him was that we have basic, strong reservations about that draft. That is all. The conclusion reached by the council president is wrong and misleading.

Responding to a question on whether amendments have been introduced into the draft, the deputy prime minister said: In that case, there would be a different draft.

He indicated that before departing Baghdad, he responded to a similar question by the Iraqi News Agency. He said that his answer was that if basic amendments are introduced into the draft, then that would mean a new draft. Consequently, we would study it on the basis of our position stating that Iraq's sovereignty must not be infringed upon and that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 must not be obstructed.

Tariq 'Aziz said: We have strong reservations and strongly reject the U.S.-British-Argentine draft. I made that clear to those who proposed the draft resolution, including the Argentine ambassador and the others. I will explain those reservations to the others with whom I will meet.

Meets Commission Chairman Ekeus

JN0804190495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, at the deputy prime minister's residence in New York this morning. Lieutenant General Dr. 'Amir Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, attended the meeting. Attending from the Special Commission were the commission's deputy chairman [name indistinct], its legal adviser John Scott, in addition to official spokesman Tim Trivan and expert Nikita Smidovich.

Saddam: 'Blockade' Has Failed To 'Subjugate' People

JN0804204495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the forces which attempted to destroy Iraq and return it to the preindustrial era, and later imposed on it this blanket blockade, have failed to subjugate our great people because the aggression and blockade have encouraged them to work and be creative, but they were not frustrated as the enemies wanted. He said that our people launched a comprehensive campaign to reconstruct the economic and development pillars.

His excellency added: While crossing to the other bank, God willing, we want to see the largest number of our people emerge safe and sound in new marches of heroic jihad and reconstruction.

This came in a statement by President Saddam Husayn while chairing the Council of Ministers' 14th session.

The Council discussed items on the agenda, including encouraging farmers and peasants to sell their entire produce of wheat and barley for the current season to the Ministry of Trade.

The president has ordered an increase in the wheat and barley prices for this season as follows:

1. The Sabir Bayk and Abu-Ghurayb wheat at 105,000 dinars per tonne.
2. Course wheat at 100,000 dinars per tonne.
3. Other types of wheat at 95,000 dinars per tonne.
4. The two types of barley at 60,000 dinars per tonne.

The Council also discussed a number of organizational and legislative issues. These include empowering the state departments to tackle minor issues to ease the burden of the courts and to make the necessary decisions on these issues.

Saddam Reappoints Army Official as Governor

NC0704160995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyrant Saddam Husayn has ordered the dismissal of the al-Samawah governor, Muhsin al-Khafaji, and recalled him to Baghdad to interrogate him on charges of failing to perform his duties and of carrying out activities inimical to the regime in the al-Samawah Governorate. Reports from Iraq confirm that tyrant Saddam appointed Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Khalil Zaki al-Rawi, the deputy chief of staff of the Army [as heard], as the governor of al-Samawah and conferred on him the powers of a military governor in al-Samawah Governorate.

This change of governor is the second in Iraq in a week, which shows how much things are deteriorating in several Iraqi governorates. The Iraqi regime has mainly appointed senior Army officers as governors to address the deterioration.

New Chief of Staff Attends Medal Ceremony

JN0904161195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputizing for Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, member of the Revolution Command Council, and defense minister has awarded medals of valor to a group of active and retired officers. The officers were awarded the medals in recognition of their heroic stand and courage in defending Iraq's sovereignty in the major duel of the immortal Mother of Battles.

A ceremony was held on the occasion. The ceremony began with a recitation from the Koran to invoke mercy on the souls of Iraq's righteous martyrs. Afterward, the fighter staff major general director of Personal Services at the Defense Ministry read the republican decrees on awarding medals of valor.

During the ceremony, the defense minister congratulated the officers who received the medals and wished them success in their jihad in defense of great Iraq and against the losing aggressors.

The ceremony was attended by fighter Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, Army chief of staff; his assistants; a Public Affairs representative; and the director of Political Guidance in the Ministry of Defense.

Minister on 'Desperate' U.S. Bid To Prolong Blockade

JN0704194995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT
7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stated that the U.S. Administration's desperate and unilateral attempts to prolong the blockade against the people of Iraq provide conclusive evidence that the Iraqi people have managed, thanks to their steadfastness, patience, and struggle, to lobby world support for their principled stand. This stand, he noted, rests on Iraq's claim to its legitimate, human right to a decent, honorable life and to its national sovereignty.

In an interview with the Youth Television today, Salih said the fact that many Arab and foreign companies are flocking to Baghdad to conclude deals with Iraq in all fields confirms once again the world's confidence in Iraq's strong economy and its leadership's credibility, in view of this leadership's fulfillment of its obligations toward those companies. Those firms have recently made huge gains by concluding many trade, economic, and agricultural contracts.

The trade minister noted that opening a French interests section in Baghdad was a very useful step. This section has managed to create an opportunity to bring Iraqi institutions and French firms together. It has also provided a good opportunity to improve relations between Iraq and France.

The trade minister called on all nations to unfreeze Iraqi assets in their banks, which amounts to \$4 billion. This sum could meet the Iraqi people's demand of food supplies and other humanitarian needs. He also urged serious action to lift the blockade, since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the Security Council resolutions. This necessitates that the paragraph which calls for lifting the blockade in Resolution 687 be implemented. Iraq should be allowed to conduct export and import activities without any conditions, he said.

Importance of New Israeli Satellite Minimized

JN0704144995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has minimized the importance of the new Israeli satellite that was launched the

day before yesterday. An Iraqi Information Ministry spokesman said that the importance of this intelligence satellite is very limited. He added: There were seven U.S. satellites over Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war, and all of them failed to spot any of the vehicles that carried the Iraqi missiles which were fired at the Zionist entity at that time.

'Abd-al-Ghafur Meets Fatah, PLO Committee Member

JN0704105595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT
7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, has received Sakhr Habash, member of Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee.

The secretary general of the front emphasized the importance of activating the Arab struggle to serve the Arab nation and crucial causes to confront colonialist and Zionist challenges. He spoke about the great historic duel of the immortal Mother of Battles under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, which gave the living example of steadfastness and independent will.

Sakhr Habash said the Palestinian Arab people are proud of the unique leadership of President Saddam Husayn and the victory and glory he brought to the Iraqis and the Arabs.

Talabani Approves Peace Plan To Stop Fighting

NC0704160895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has received a message from Dr. Najm-al-Din Karim, chairman of the Kurdish National Congress, KNC [in English], in the United States. In his message, the KNC chairman expressed his extreme regret at the continuing fighting in Kurdistan. He urged brother Talabani to stop the fighting and allow the independent representatives of the Kurdish masses to present their peace plan to halt the fighting and strengthen democracy.

Dr. Najm-al-Din stressed that the KNC and representatives of Kurdish bodies in Europe, France, and Canada will visit Kurdistan soon to present their peace plan to brother Talabani. He urged brother Talabani to send his response immediately.

Brother Talabani has sent a reply to the KNC chairman, expressing the PUK's approval of the contents of the peace plan.

Urges 'Political Methods'

NC0804153495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A cease-fire between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan

Democratic Party [KDP] was announced yesterday. This truce was reached in line with a request by members of the Kurdistan parties to halt infighting in Kurdistan.

PUK Secretary General brother Jalal Talabani has sent the following cable to the members of the party's Political Bureau and all heroic peshmergas:

We have been informed by members of the Kurdistan parties that Mr. Mas'ud Barzani has accepted a two-week cease-fire. While agreeing to this, we wish to proclaim a cease-fire not only for two weeks but (?indefinitely).

Therefore, we call on you to take up defensive positions and provide no opportunity for attacks by our side against them, nor by their side against us. Let us begin handling all problems through peaceful political methods.

Barzani Asks KDP Forces To Honor Cease-Fire

JN0704192095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Press statement issued on 7 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Based on reports from the Kurdistan Democratic Party's [KDP] Central Information Office; out of respect and appreciation for the noble national efforts of the Kurdish parties operational committee and the efforts of Kurdish social figures and national and popular quarters which, for a long time, have been seeking to reach a solution to the Kurdistan crisis and to end the internecine fighting and destruction; and out of the desire to support these efforts and mediations and establish a suitable atmosphere that will enable these brothers to pursue their national good offices, Mas'ud Barzani sent today, Friday, 7 April, a cable to all the KDP forces and military axes, and to the KDP branches, asking them to unilaterally stop fighting and cease military operations for a two-week period starting on 7 April, and continuing until 21 April, and to just adopt a position of self-defense.

PUK Radio Discloses Five-Point Cease-Fire Program

NC0804170795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1535 GMT 8 Apr 95

["Text" of the program submitted by the Kurdish National Congress in the United States to normalize relations in Kurdistan; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the Kurdish National Congress in the United States, a group of sincere Kurds from the various countries in Europe and North America met on 23 and 24 March to discuss and study the current deteriorating situation in Kurdistan. Representatives of the Kurdistan Democratic Party

[KDP], the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan attended the conference.

The conferees expressed resentment and fury over the continuation of the fratricide and the violation of human rights by the main forces in Kurdistan. After views were exchanged and lengthy discussions were held by the participants in the conference, proposals were approved to prepare suitable grounds for dealing with the problems.

Expressing concern that our historical gains will be lost; hoping that the suicidal war will stop and peace will be established on political, legal, security, and economic bases in the light of the Paris agreement of 22 September 1994 and the strategic agreement of November 1994; and with a view to keeping the fate of the Kurdish people in the hand of their sons, the conference approved the following program:

1. An immediate halt to the internal war in all the areas of Kurdistan. The leaderships of the two parties [KDP and PUK] will announce the end of this war and halt the propaganda campaign inside and outside Kurdistan.
2. Respect for human rights and the release of all detainees arrested by the parties because of the internal war.
3. The establishment of a transitional government made up of qualified party and independent personalities. The main tasks of this government will be:
 - A. Supervising the withdrawal of the gunmen and the party militias from Irbil and its environs and all the towns and villages of Kurdistan.
 - B. Collecting the region's revenues, especially customs revenues, and depositing them in the government treasury.
 - C. Reinstating all the powers of the government, particularly its political, financial, and military powers.
 - D. Forming an ad hoc committee made up of specialized and qualified personalities to control the customs revenues and the sums deposited in banks. These revenues have been the main cause of the problems in Kurdistan.
 - E. Removing barriers to the free movement of the citizens of Kurdistan and creating freedom for the transport of foodstuffs and other commodities to all the areas of the region.
 - F. Holding a public and comprehensive census with the help of specialized world organizations which have expressed readiness to cooperate in this regard.
 - G. Preparing suitable ground for holding free and orderly elections in the future. These elections will be a factor in alternating authority [tanawub al-sultah] in a peaceful and democratic manner.

H. Because the government will have full powers in the political, financial, military, and security fields, all political parties must offer full assistance to it to enable it to carry out its tasks. Undoubtedly, these tasks will be difficult. Therefore, the Kurdistan Parliament must give the government legal and legislative powers for six months to enable it to issue legal instructions and legislative decrees, as has happened in other countries that have passed through special circumstances similar to Iraqi Kurdistan.

4. To send a delegation representing the conference to announce this program, exert efforts to implement it, and inform the conference participants and the friends of the Kurds abroad about the results of its work. The delegation must clearly identify to the Kurdish and world public any party that is responsible for not implementing this program and must adopt a stance toward it. The delegation must draw up a timetable for all the points mentioned in the program.

5. The Kurdish National Congress asks all political parties in Kurdistan to renew their pledge to the Kurdish nation in order to remove the doubt and suspicion of the sons of our people and the Kurdish political parties. Therefore, and in view of the desire of the majority of the participants, the conference approves this program. It will submit it to all the parties in Kurdistan for approval.

AFP Reports PKK, PUK Kill Eight Iraqi Kurds

NC0704172595 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT
7 Apr 95

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Zakho, Iraq, April 7 (AFP)—Turkish Kurdish separatist guerrillas killed eight Iraqi Kurds, including four children and a woman, in an ambush on their car in northern Iraq, witnesses said here Friday [7 April].

One of the victims, according to sources in Turkey, was Faddah 'Irfan Harkuri a former leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) which Ankara said Thursday it would entrust with border security after it withdraws its troops from the country.

Witnesses did not identify the victims but said they were all members of the same family travelling in a white Volkswagen Passat on a main road near a Turkish army camp east of Zakho on Thursday night.

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas and Iraqi allies in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) attacked the car and a pickup truck travelling in the opposite direction with automatic weapons and rockets, they said.

There was no immediate word from the PUK or the PKK on the attack.

Three men, one 25-year-old woman, and four children died while an eight-year-old child escaped with injuries. Two men in the pickup truck were also injured, the witnesses said.

Muhammad Zirban, who was driving the pickup and escaped with minor injuries, described the scene.

"At the moment I was about to pass the Volkswagen we were attacked by an armed group, who were along the road and further away, with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire," he said.

'Adil Said, a local KDP leader said the PKK and PUK fighters fired at the two vehicles from three positions, threw a hand grenade inside the vehicle after it careened into a ditch, and then dragged the occupants out and shot them.

"It was a random attack ... They obviously want to frighten people in general," he said.

The car's charred remains lay in a ditch beside the road on Friday, about a kilometre (half a mile) west of the Turkish camp at Berkare and a few hundred metres (yards) east of a KDP checkpoint on the eastern outskirts of Zakho.

Some eggs on the back seat, vegetables and a yoghurt pot in the boot were all that remained of the victims' belongings. The family were buried Friday, villagers said.

KDP officials said the attack— which local people blamed on Sa'id 'Abdallah, leader of the PKK in the Telkeber area— was a bold move because it had taken place so near to the Turkish base.

"It looks like both sides will now make life hard for us, the Turks as well as the PKK and PUK," said one. [passage omitted]

More Turkish Troops Said Pulling Back

NC0804160495 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT
8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zakho, Iraq, April 8 (AFP)—About 500 Turkish troops have left northern Iraq walking over border mountains back into Turkey, Kurdish officials said Saturday [8 April].

The report came as Turkey on Saturday said it had pulled out the first contingent of its 35,000 troops poured into the region to crush Kurdish separatist rebels.

Members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in the village of Kani Masi, just a few hundred metres (yards) south of the border mountains, said they had seen the soldiers late Friday walking back to their own country.

"But we don't know what that means because today (Saturday) seven helicopters were flying from Turkey to

an area south of Kani Masi. We believe they brought new troops," KDP official Hasan Madullah told AFP.

Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu, of the army staff in Diyarbakir in southeast Turkey, told AFP that a brigade of 3,000 soldiers had returned to Turkey at the end of "its mission."

But he did not specify where the troops were being pulled back from and only added there was "no other withdrawal scheduled for the moment."

The Turkish Foreign Ministry, which has insisted the incursion would be limited in time and scale, confirmed the partial withdrawal Saturday saying the troops had returned to their base in Silopi, the last Turkish town before the border with Iraq.

Meanwhile, an AFP correspondent saw dozens of lorries crossing from Ibrahim al-Khalil northeast of Zakho and heading for three Turkish camps between Zakho and Batufah 30 kilometres (19 miles) to the east.

Every hundred metres (yards) along the road a tank was deployed.

Turkish soldiers unloaded hundreds of loaves of bread, bottles of water, canned meat and cigarettes for the troops.

And troops were handing out bundles of Turkish-language leaflets at three checkpoints along the road calling on separatist rebels from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) to surrender.

"It is written that the PKK should surrender and not be afraid because we won't put them in jail," a Turkish soldier told AFP.

He added millions of leaflets had been dropped on the region by helicopter.

Envoy Refutes Kuwaiti 'Fabrications' on Prisoners
*JN0604201895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1646 GMT
6 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 6 Apr (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, head of the Iraqi delegation to the Arab labor conference being held here, has refuted the allegations and fabrications of the Kuwaiti regime's labor minister on the so-called Kuwaiti prisoners, describing them as ridiculous.

In remarks in which he silenced the Kuwaiti labor minister, Dr. Najm said that in compliance with the Geneva Convention of 1949, Iraq has released all Kuwaiti and other civilian and military prisoners through and under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], which took charge of their transportation and repatriation. He stressed that the Kuwaiti regime's allegations are false and unfounded.

The head of the Iraqi delegation asked: What interest does Iraq have in holding Kuwaiti prisoners while knowing that this will be hideously exploited by hostile powers to prolong the blockade? He stressed that Iraq is not holding any Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti prisoners.

He referred to the meetings of the committee entrusted with searching for the missing persons held in Riyadh in March and April 1991. During those meetings, the committee defined the nature of its task as searching for missing persons and dealing with the ICRC on this basis.

Responding to the Kuwaiti minister's lies, Dr. Najm stressed that Iraq has cooperated with all efforts that have been exerted to end and close this file. He said Iraq has cooperated with the ICRC, the efforts of King Hassan II of Morocco, the Arab League, and other Arab and international initiatives.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti regime is using this issue abominably for political objectives aimed at prolonging the blockade against Iraq and inflicting further harm on its people. He regretted the stands some Arab states have concerning Iraq, noting that they contravene all Arab values and conventions.

The Kuwaiti representative tried to respond to the facts and legal evidence brought forward by the Iraqi delegation. However, he was silenced by the chairmanship of the conference. He was not allowed to reiterate what was known in advance to be a repeat of what the U.S. Administration says. That stand drew enthusiastic applause by attendees.

The conference is chaired by Sayf 'Ali al-Jarwan, minister of labor and social affairs in the United Arab Emirates.

Saddam Directs Formation of Harvest Committees
*JN0704074795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
22 Mar 95 p 4*

[Article by Qasim al-Mi'mar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn's directives during his chairmanship of the ninth cabinet session on 21 February 1995 on preparation for the coming harvest season were an additional qualitative step in the agricultural process, calling on the competent quarters to make an early start in their implementation.

In order to carry out the leadership's decision, a Higher Harvest Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Khaz'al Khudayyir 'Abbas, under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, and including the membership of the representatives of the General Federation of Cooperative Peasant Societies and the Ministries of Interior, Agricultural and Agrarian Reform, Trade, Oil, Transport and Communications, and Finance. Central committees have also been in the governorates and similar subcommittees in the districts and subdistricts in order to follow up on the harvest.

The committees' responsibilities and duties include financial and administrative powers and the authority to direct manual and mechanical harvest and shift harvesters between the administrative units in the country. [passage omitted]

Fertilizers, Seeds, Pesticides Given to Farmers

JN0704080195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
22 Mar 95 p 4

[Article by Yasir al-Mutawalli]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Agricultural Supplies Company, a unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, has already provided the various governments with their share of

compound fertilizers. It is now distributing the second portion of urea fertilizers, according to the agricultural plan for the production of grain during the 1994-1995 winter season.

Making this announcement, company General Manager Dr. Matar Zibar said vegetable seeds from Iba' Center for Agricultural Research, and those which have been imported, have also been distributed to the agricultural departments in all governorates for the summer season.

The general manager explained that the company is cooperating with the State Authority for the Protection of Cultivation by supplying farmers with pesticides to combat pests.

Reaction to Suicide Attacks in Gaza Strip**Ministers, Opposition React**

TA0904114695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a suicide attack near Kfar Darom, a car bomb blew up near an Egged bus with which it deliberately collided. So far, four dead and over 40 wounded have been reported.

A van with Gaza license plates waited on a dirt side road and then drove onto the main road when it spotted the approaching Egged bus, which was on its way from Ashqelon to Kfar Darom. A Kfar Darom resident who was at the site filmed the incident with a video camera. A large part of the bus was reportedly destroyed.

AFP reports that the Islamic Jihad in Gaza took responsibility for the attack and said it is in retaliation for the Israeli Mosad's activities in the Gaza Strip. The government was informed of the attack immediately during its meeting.

Ambulances and army forces rushed to the site of the attack. The casualties were evacuated to hospitals in Beersheba and Ashqelon, and some are now being transferred to Hadassah 'En-Kerem Hospital. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed off the area and began wide-ranging searches.

Here are several reactions to the attack:

Meretz Minister Amnon Rubinstein said the following about 'Arafat: We are fed up with promises and nice words. 'Arafat is not doing enough. Rubinstein said if 'Arafat does not succeed in stopping terrorist actions, the negotiations will not conclude by 1 July. Minister Yosi Sarid believes the negotiations should be speeded up and not slowed down. Minister Efrayim Sneh also said that suspending the negotiations will not end terrorism.

The Likud is initiating a special Knesset session to debate the decline in the security situation. The Likud announcement says that Minister Sarid's remarks about the need to evacuate Netzarim encourage Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to carry out attacks. The National Religious Party is demanding that the government immediately reject Yosi Sarid's ideas about evacuating settlements and called for a special Knesset session on 11 April. Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan said Sarid's remarks from last Friday were translated into a fatal car bomb today. Moleket warns against an attack in Judea and Samaria if the government carries out its plan to hand over territories to the Palestinians.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1120 GMT on 9 April carries the following recorded remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in reaction to the attack: "We are aware of the reality, which is that the Islamic Jihad and Hamas use somewhat more sophisticated and dangerous terrorist methods, and we must fight them. The Palestinian Authority must also do its part. I am not sure

if we can overcome everything simultaneously, but we must conduct a tough, relentless war until we secure reasonable results. We must be very careful not to take measures that will serve only the terrorists in the long run. We must be very careful not to create the impression that every time they plant a car bomb, we reach the wrong conclusions."]

Rabin Orders 2 Key Routes Closed

TA1004072295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Apr 95 p A1, A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, decided yesterday to close two central routes in the Gaza Strip to Palestinian vehicles, following the two suicide attacks in which seven people were killed and 61 wounded.

The decision was made in a meeting held at Rabin's residence and attended by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq; the head of the Shin Bet; Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the Southern Command; Intelligence Branch chief Uri Sagi; Dani Yatom, Rabin's military secretary; a senior police officer; and General Staff officers. It was decided to close the main section of the Gaza-Rafah "Tanjaz route," which passes through Kfar Darom. As of last night, Palestinian vehicles are banned from driving along that part of the road where the attack was perpetrated. Palestinian vehicles will also be banned from the section of the "Qarni road" that passes near Netzarim.

In the meeting, it was also decided that Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, will immediately notify the Palestinian Authority and Chairman 'Arafat's office that Israel is closing the two routes to Palestinian traffic. Thousands of Palestinian vehicles, as well as dozens of Israeli vehicles, travel these routes daily. [passage omitted]

Defends Closure of Routes

TA0904115695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1145 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Report by Razi Barqay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the policy of keeping the territories under closure will be upheld. Rabin made this pronouncement in closed meetings he held in his office after the cabinet meeting and following the Kfar Darom bombing. Our political correspondent Udi Segal has learned that Rabin said that the closure kept the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists from carrying out an attack inside Israel and forced them to act inside the Strip.

Rabin: PA Responsible for Prevention

TA0904154695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1408 GMT 9 Apr 95

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Kfar Darom "several minutes ago"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qol Yisra'el military correspondent Karmela Menashe] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, there were two attacks in one day. Are these attacks in any way linked to the talk about evacuating settlements?

[Rabin] I do not see any link with the actions of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. These activities are planned long in advance as suicide attacks. Today we suffered two extremely grave attacks with many casualties. I have no doubt that the intention of these organizations—Hamas and the Islamic Jihad—is to kill Israelis and Palestinians in order to murder the peace. I also have no doubt that the fact that we implemented measures such as the closure and tighter supervision over the exits from Gaza caused them to carry out these attacks within the Gaza Strip. Obviously, just as it is the government's duty to ensure the safety of Israelis living within sovereign Israel, it is its responsibility to safeguard the Israeli citizens in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] activity in this area is directed as much as possible toward that end—just as the closure and the supervision over the exits is aimed at preventing these attacks from occurring outside the territories, as was the case with the truck in Tel Sheva and the Bet Lid attack, at preventing them from harming Israelis inside Israel.

I have no doubt that the Palestinian Authority [PA] must also prove it can operate against these organizations. In al-Shaykh Radwan a grave explosion occurred when they were preparing a bomb with the intention of harming us. They harmed Palestinians, however, because Hamas and the Islamic Jihad do not distinguish and will not hesitate to harm Palestinians and endanger their lives in order to achieve their main objective: harming Israel and the peace process.

[Menashe] Will there be a halt to the peace process in the wake of the attacks?

[Rabin] We will demand of the PA to fulfill its duty in accordance with what was agreed upon. This despicable murder by extremist suicide terrorists makes it very difficult for us to see how we can proceed. We will not stop the negotiations, but we will demand that they prove to us, here in Gaza, that they can do it, and we will continue to act on the basis of our responsibility to the lives of Israelis, both in Israel—by means of the closure and supervision—and here in Gaza, where the IDF will act in order to prevent such a terrible incident as today's.

[Menashe] Do not Kfar Darom and Netzarim constitute an obstacle to the forces on the ground?

[Rabin] We have decided, on the basis of an agreement with the Palestinians, that the settlements will remain intact and that we bear responsibility for their security. This is an extremely difficult mission, because thousands of Palestinian-owned vehicles pass on this road lying in front of us every day, as well as dozens—maybe a little

more—of Israeli-owned vehicles. In such a mixed situation it is extremely difficult to prevent the suicide terrorists from carrying out such attacks—when they enjoy freedom of action. We are making an effort, but the onus of responsibility in this region—which should be directed at preventing the operation of such suicide terrorists and at preventing them from preparing the bombs—lies with the PA.

Army Chief Urges Vigorous PA Action

TA0904174395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1617
GMT 9 Apr 95

[News conference by Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, the chief of General Staff, with domestic correspondents at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; broadcast in progress—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shahaq] ...an explosive charge concealed under sacks filled with weeds. Not all the explosives went off. This is what happened at Kfar Darom.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did the bus have an army escort?

[Shahaq] The bus had an escort, and in addition, there were numerous soldiers aboard the bus. The problem is not the escort, the problem is that when a driver is bent on blowing himself up, having an escort makes no difference. An army escort can react when shots are fired, or when someone tries something. When a person comes to get himself blown up, the escort has no time to react or anyone to react against.

The second event was quite similar to the first one. A convoy escorting a vehicle with civilians from Netzarim entered the Strip from the Qarni crossing was rammed by a car. I do not know whether it rammed them from the opposite lane, or whether like the first one, it was waiting at the side of the road; as far as I have been able to ascertain from the evidence on the scene, this passenger car came at them from the opposite lane, more or less, activating the charge inside and exploding.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chief of Staff, is the identity of the perpetrators of these two attacks known?

[Shahaq] You mean, what organization? We can guess it is either the Islamic Jihad or Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]; I do not think it makes much difference, as far as we are concerned. As far as I am concerned, there is no difference between them. They both engage in the same kind of activity, and we wage equal war on the two.

[Correspondent] Is it possible the two organizations collaborated in this instance?

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Shlomo Raz, interrupting] The prime minister said terrorist attacks may be carried out in the wake of the blast at the al-Shaykh Radwan plant. Did the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] make

appropriate preparations in view of this assessment made by the prime minister himself?

[Shahaq] Terrorist attacks are liable to happen every day; they certainly are in the Gaza Strip. People live and travel there: Soldiers and civilians enter the Gaza Strip and travel within the Gaza Strip. As long as people live there, terrorist attacks can happen. As long as people use the roads, terrorist attacks can happen—certainly attacks such as the one that was carried out today, when the other side came to commit suicide by crashing into the troops.

[IDF Radio political correspondent Udi Segal] Have any operational decisions been made regarding the future?

[Shahaq] As you know, I have not seen the prime minister yet; I will shortly.

[Correspondent] Mr. Chief of Staff, should we understand from your remarks that the IDF has no solution for the problem of the security of the isolated settlements in the territories, in Gaza?

[Shahaq] You can understand from my remarks that we are waging a war on terror. Suicide attacks have happened before, and other types of terror attacks have happened before. Terrorist attacks are not about to end today. Both the attacks and the war on terror will probably be carried on.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Shahaq] We are waging a war on terror, and we have to fight terror wherever it is, with or without a separation. Even if separation is implemented—the issue has not been concluded, and when it is, we will discuss it—I assume there will be terrorist organizations that will try to carry out attacks in any event and in any way possible.

[Correspondent] You said we have sufficient intelligence to fight terror. But are our hands tied to an extent that renders us incapable of utilizing that intelligence in our operations?

[Shahaq] Our hands are not tied; we are in Gaza. I do not know to which of my remarks you were alluding. I said we have a quite good intelligence force. In my opinion, we have always had a quite good intelligence force, and yet terrorist attacks have been carried out before, as they are now. As I said earlier with regard to today's very painful event, there was no concrete information regarding a suicide car bomb.

I further said that we demand that the Palestinian police do much more, and this is no idle demand, because the responsibility they took on has a meaning. Responsibilities do not involve only parading in uniforms and acting in spheres which affect or interest them. It also means averting events such as the one that happened today, as well as other things. I think the Palestinian police, and most notably the Palestinian intelligence and security

organizations, are and will be required to act much more vigorously, much more purposefully, and with better results.

[Segal] In view of your remarks, can we say that terror cannot be solved by military means? This is what several ministers said here at the Prime Minister's Office.

[Shahaq] I said what I said, and you seem to be asking questions that you are bent on asking. I said we are waging a war on terror, and I said the war neither began yesterday nor did it end today. We are engaged in a protracted war on terror, and it will go on as long as terror continues.

[Correspondent] Have you no specific recommendations tonight?

[Shahaq] You people are so agitated. Perhaps you should calm down a bit and start speaking more quietly, and then you will get your answers.

[Correspondent] Do you have any specific recommendations for your upcoming meeting with the prime minister?

[Shahaq] Do you imagine I will give you my specific recommendations now, and inform the prime minister of them later?

[Segal] Mr. Chief of Staff, you were one of those who implemented the first phase of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and you headed the negotiating delegation. Is it possible today, following quite a few terrorist attacks—particularly those that took place inside the autonomous territory today—that the IDF's working premise that 'Arafat will take vigorous action against the rejectionist organizations has failed?

[Shahaq] I think the Palestinian Authority [PA] should do much more than it has to date, if it wants to be effective; our own effectiveness is not the issue. If it wants to do well in Gaza, it should demonstrate a different kind of capability against terror.

[Segal] Does the next stage of the interim arrangement in Judaea and Samaria depend on that?

[Shahaq] I am not carrying out any negotiations here, I am merely briefing you on the terror attack.

[Correspondent] Will it affect the IDF redeployment?

[Shahaq] We are not discussing either the deployment or the redeployment here. We are discussing things that happened in Gaza today, and those who listened to what I said earlier should understand my statement that if the PA fails to discharge its duty, everyone will have a problem.

Sarid: PA Best 'Not Good Enough'

TA0904153595 Tel Aviv Educational Television
Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Amnon Levi in the television studio—live]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Levi] Good evening to you, Minister Yosi Sarid. It seems that the timing for today's press headlines, talking of your proposal on evacuating Netzarim, is not successful.

[Sarid] What does it have to do with timing at all? It is either correct or incorrect. Before a disaster we are not supposed to express our opinion because a disaster is expected, and this is always the case, and after a disaster we must not express our opinion because a disaster has taken place. We do have to speak our minds so as to prevent catastrophes. After all, we are not engaged in an abstract, theoretical discussion. We are engaged in a discussion about our very existence. I thought and still think that the idea of establishing a place with 27 families inside a Palestinian sea, among 1 million Palestinians, creates an unreasonable and unbearable complication. Huge numbers of soldiers—it was said that the army was castrated as a result—are necessary to protect 27 families. My opinion, both before and after this horrendous disaster, is that this situation is unreasonable. I suggest that we do not discuss the question of timing. This argument needs to take place in better and worse times alike; the truth should not be concealed or distorted. I think that we...

[Levi, interrupting] I still want to refer to the question of timing, and let me tell you in what context. I do not expect you to change your mind because of a terrorist attack...

[Sarid, interrupting] Should I now say that Netzarim should stay where it is?

[Levi] One minute please; hear the full question first. The deputy defense minister spoke, saying that the Palestinians do not entirely deliver the goods from the viewpoint of security. They have information they can but do not give, and there are other things they can do but have not done. Ehud Ya'ari, the Arab affairs commentator, also spoke, saying there are at least two things they can do, including the outlawing of the terrorist organizations. In other words, do you still stick by your beliefs regardless of everything, or will you come at some stage and tell the Palestinians: If you do not deliver, neither will I.

[Sarid] I do not know what I will say at some future stage. At this stage though, I contend that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is doing its best. The problem is that its best is not good enough. Still, if we weaken the PA even further, by halting the process every time anew, what will happen then? We will strengthen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and weaken the PA, and it will not be long before this PA will be extinct. What will happen later? The whole of the Palestinian nation will become Hamas. I think this is a very undesirable outcome. I do not think that on such a horrible day I should wage a struggle against my internal opposition. I should wage a struggle against the archenemy, which is not the internal opposition, nor the PLO. My, our, main enemy is Hamas, and it is Hamas which should be quelled. All our

efforts should be directed at one goal only: Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. It is very revolting to me that on such a day, on a day of such a catastrophe, of such depressing developments, I do not hear anything about the Islamic Jihad or Hamas. I hear the opposition putting the blame for the tragedy on Yitzhaq Rabin or Shim'on Peres or on myself. My culprit is one: It is Hamas, not the PA, nor the internal opposition. All efforts should focus on fighting Hamas. I think that any other statement only diffuses the efforts and prevents us from doing what we have to do.

President Recommends Suspending Talks

TA0904122495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Weizman again recommends suspending the peace process with the Palestinians in order to see if the Palestinian Authority is able to preserve security in its area. Weizman expressed his condolences to the bereaved families and wished a quick recovery to the wounded. Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that Mr. Weizman made these remarks to correspondents during a conference with Jewish community leaders from all over the world.

Rabin Receives 'Arafat, Christopher Condolences

TA0904165195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat phoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin less than half an hour ago and expressed condolences to the bereaved families and his shock about the casualties. Prime Minister Rabin expressed appreciation for these sentiments, but added Israel expects him to do more in order to prevent acts of terrorism. Mr. Rabin said the two parties must work together to prevent terrorism, adding it is important for 'Arafat to realize the terrorists are not only Israel's enemies, but his enemies as well.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also called the prime minister and expressed condolences to the bereaved families and his shock over the attack.

Jordan's Ambassador Presents Credentials, Denounces Attack

TA1004134195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President 'Ezer Weizman today received the letters of credential of two new ambassadors, Martin Indyk, the new U.S. ambassador in Israel, and Marwan Mu'ashshir, Jordan's first ambassador in Israel. Our correspondent Asaf Halperin reports:

[Begin recording] [Halperin] [passage omitted] Following a delay of several months, it is official today: Israel and Jordan have full diplomatic relations.

The ceremony in which Mr. Mu'ashshir presented his credentials has just concluded. Referring to yesterday's terrorist attacks, the ambassador said that Jordan vehemently denounces the attack and that the only way is to speed up the peace process and reach a settlement. The Palestinian Authority is committed to the peace process, but I do not think that every single attack can be prevented. The only solution is to reach a political settlement, the ambassador said.

President Weizman welcomed the second ambassador of an Arab state in Israel and expressed the hope that others will follow.

[Weizman] It is a very good feeling, because we must remember that we are part of the Middle East and must reach an arrangement and common life. The Foreign Ministry will tell me how. I am very, very happy that our neighbors from the other side of the Jordan River are with us today. I will say to you in English very fast. He asked me how do I feel you being the second ambassador here, so I said I am sure it is not the last one. [last two sentences in English]

[Mu'ashshir, in English] We feel that the average man in the street, and I am talking here particularly in Jordan, need to feel the benefits of peace and need to feel that the quality of life has indeed improved for people to start interacting with each other and for peace to be truly translated from one between governments to one between people. [end recording]

No Ross-Rabin Meeting; Peres on State of Syrian Talks

TA0904180895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister will not see Dennis Ross tonight. The U.S. envoy will have to settle for a meeting with Itamar Rabinovich, at which another attempt to find a solution will be made. Ross is bearing no great news, and the feeling in Jerusalem is that al-Asad is still hesitating: He is possibly interested, but he is not certain; and he is certainly in no hurry.

Yitzhaq Rabin said at today's cabinet meeting: Al-Asad wants to get more than al-Sadat had. There has been no change in the Syrian stand since Christopher's most recent visit here.

Shim'on Peres was adamant: The story with the Syrians must be wrapped up before the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians gets on the agenda. The foreign minister added: We will not withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines. Ministers read his remarks to mean that the 4 June borders may be out, but the international border is not.

[Begin Peres recording] Had I said it, I would have said it. Since I have not said it, I did not say it. [preceding two sentences as heard] Actually, if you think about it,

al-Asad has been telling the Americans that he came to the Madrid conference because of Resolutions 242 and 338. We too came on this basis. Therefore, an allusion to the border matter can be found in 242 and 338. True, they do not provide an explicit map, but they do constitute a formula enabling us to conduct negotiations. [end recording]

Cabinet Views Accords With Palestinians, Syria Talks

TA0904145095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 9 April carries a live report by political correspondent Udi Segal from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on this morning's weekly cabinet meeting. Segal reports that before the ministers received the news of the Kfar Darom bombing "they finished discussing the annual intelligence analysis they received about six weeks ago, which asserted that terror would grow in the territories, and that although 'Arafat was making a more serious effort to combat the rejectionist organizations, he was not doing enough. Not much seems to have changed since that analysis.

"At the political discussion held at the cabinet before news of the bombing arrived, most ministers spoke of the need to pursue the political process with the Palestinians and to implement the interim agreement in Judeaea and Samaria. Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said only elections in the territories would prove that the political move is irreversible; an elected leadership cannot be ignored when the permanent arrangement is on the agenda, Minister Bar'am said. He too endorsed Minister Sarid's suggestion, noting that the settlements of Netzarim and Tal al-Rumaythah are unnecessary as well as detrimental to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The government must not be deterred by right-wing threats, but at the same time, this is not the right time to evacuate these settlements, Minister Bar'am added.

"With regard to Syria, several ministers said Israel should make an effort to reach an arrangement with Damascus despite the indications that al-Asad is apparently deferring progress regardless of Israel's moderate stand."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 9 April adds: "During today's cabinet session dealing with the political process, held prior to the attack in the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Rabin asked what would happen if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from Janin, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. Rabin said: Look what is coming out of Gaza; the same thing can come out of the West Bank cities. The prime minister noted there is no problem in implementing the Declaration of Principles with the PLO from the political point of view, but there is a problem of terrorism. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes this means that terrorism is preventing the possibility of making progress in implementing the autonomy. The prime minister noted that

the Palestinian Authority has recently stepped up its activity against terrorism, but this is not enough.

"Foreign Minister Peres said it is unwise to speak about the evacuation of settlements at this stage, adding that doing so is a mistake. According to several ministers Yosi Sarid's opinion in this issue is a minority opinion in the government."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1305 GMT on 9 April adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning briefed the cabinet on his meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister. He noted that the Egyptians have moderated their stand on the nuclear issue. Peres reported that he had demanded categorically that Egypt refrain from presenting Israel with additional requirements in connection with the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and other issues, such as Jerusalem. We had made a territories-for-peace agreement with the Egyptians, and they should raise no new issues now, Peres said."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 9 April carries a subsequent report by political correspondent Udi Segal, in which he notes: "At the beginning of this morning's cabinet meeting, the prime minister announced that he was canceling the session of the ministerial supervisory committee for construction in the territories scheduled for this afternoon. The committee was slated to discuss the Construction and Housing Ministry's plan to build several thousand new apartments in the territories. The right wing reacted furiously to the cancellation. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza announced the government was surrendering to PLO dictums concerning the continued construction and life in Judea and Samaria. Peace Now expressed satisfaction at the postponement of the meeting which, the movement said, contradicts the Israeli Government's peace policy."

Segal says that prior to the news of the Gaza Strip bombings "Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres reiterated their commitment to the political process with the Palestinians and the implementation of the interim arrangement in Judea and Samaria." He adds: "Most ministers called for continuing the negotiations while insisting on Israel's demands in the sphere of security: the disarmament of Hamas, prosecution of terrorists, and a genuine antiterror endeavor by 'Arafat. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer was the only one who called for a reevaluation of the process."

Segal concludes: "The cabinet today sent 'Arafat a clear message: Unless he proves he can control the situation in Gaza, Israel will be unable to continue transferring powers in Judea and Samaria to him. This condition may mean a halt of the political process."

Source, 'Arafat Claim Peres Proposes Gaza Statehood

TA0904090495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Apr 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a closed meeting several days ago, Yasir 'Arafat said that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had proposed to Palestinian Authority [PA] member Nabil Sha'th to set up a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip.

'Arafat said that the Palestinians rejected the proposal because they think it is a trick designed to reinstate Jordan in the West Bank and leave the Palestinians to rule only the Gaza Strip.

A senior political source told HA'ARETZ that Peres recently presented him with his proposal to set up a Palestinian state in Gaza, arguing that it would make it easier for the Palestinians to show flexibility toward Israel with regard to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment on the West Bank.

Sha'th said in an interview two weeks ago that the PA had received a proposal from Israel to set up an independent state in return for the Palestinians conceding military control on the West Bank. In response, Peres said that "there are all sorts of ideas" but that only those presented in documents bind the government.

Tomorrow, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold a lengthy discussion in his office to be devoted to a review of the course of the negotiations with the Palestinians. Senior political sources said prior to the discussions that good progress has been made in the overt negotiations on elections and in the secret negotiations on the IDF redeployment on the West Bank. They expressed the hope that the interim agreement will be ready by the target date of 1 July. [passage omitted]

Peres Said To Promise Wide-Ranging Building

TA0904095495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Apr 95 p A4

[Report by Shazar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met last Sunday [2 April] with Rabbi Yohanan Sofer, a member of the presidency of Agudat Yisrael's Council of Torah Sages, and gave a commitment that the government will approve wide-ranging construction in the ultra-Orthodox settlements of Betar and Qiryat Sefer in the territories.

Peres is currently holding a series of meetings with rabbis on housing shortages in the ultra-Orthodox sector, which is indicative of an improvement in relations between the foreign minister and the ultra-Orthodox community following the crisis set off by Peres' remarks about King David's affair with Bathsheba.

Nonetheless, a source close to Peres denied charges that the foreign minister is trying to compete with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, who is holding a series of meetings with ultra-Orthodox leaders. The source said that Labor believes that there is no point in investing in the ultra-Orthodox sector.

Rabbi Sofer has a large community in Betar. He is considered the settlement's patron and was one of the leaders of the struggle against the building freeze in the settlements. Peres promised him that the building in Betar will continue and even declared that there is no dispute over Betar. Betar has 1,200 families, and the government has already approved construction of an extra 1,000 apartments, in addition to 900 others that are being planned.

Peres even promised the rabbi that today, the ministerial committee on building in the territories will approve the construction of 4,000 apartments in the territories, mostly in Qiryat Sefer and Ma'ale Adumim. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 9 April adds: "This afternoon's meeting of the ministerial committee that was discuss building plans in the territories and around Jerusalem prepared by the construction and housing minister has been put off, the Prime Minister's Office told our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman. The reason for the postponement was not given, and no new date has yet been set for the discussions." The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and Peace Now have reacted to the postponement. The council said "it is enough to threaten the government with suspending the so-called peace process for it to be frightened off. Peace Now received the news with satisfaction. The movement's spokesman said the ministerial committee should be immediately disbanded, because its existence contravenes the government's peace policy."]

Rabin's Office, PA, al-Tibi on Netzarim Evacuation Idea

TA0804121995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Prime Minister's Office is not discussing a practical plan for the time being to evacuate Netzarim in the Gaza Strip. Reporter Hayim Hecht says Prime Minister Rabin recently examined several plans for withdrawal from the settlement, but the discussion was postponed because of the terrorist attacks that occurred in the area. The Prime Minister's Office says Rabin adheres to the principle that settlements should not be evacuated prior to the permanent solution.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] says if Israel evacuates Netzarim beforehand, it would not be a gesture to the Palestinians, but a step to give Israel more security. A Palestinian official said in such an event they would populate Netzarim with refugees from the camps.

The Knesset plenum is to hold a special session on the issue during the recess, after Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Peled of Tzomet collected the 30 necessary signatures. MK Hagay Merom of Labor demanded that the government evacuate all the Qatif Bloc settlements prior to the next elections. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Ahmad al-Tibi, said such a step could be the move to stop the vicious cycle in the Israel-Palestinian negotiating process. It would constitute a positive precedent, al-Tibi added.

Sharon Accuses Government of Promising To Evacuate Netzarim

TA0704152695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a gathering in Netzarim, Knesset member Ari'el Sharon stated that senior government officials had promised Yasir 'Arafat to evacuate Netzarim and the Tall al-Rumaythah neighborhood in Hebron. Sharon told the settlers that Netzarim is of utmost importance in preventing the creation of a precedent concerning the evacuation of settlements. He believes opposition to the settlement's removal will not be tenuous.

Our correspondent in the south Nisim Qeynan adds that the gathering decided to accept more families into the settlement and to build new greenhouses.

Meretz Executive Chairman Hanan Erez said Meretz supports Minister Sarid's demand to remove the settlement of Netzarim. According to him, this settlement is an unnecessary focus of friction between the Palestinians and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the cost of keeping it is very high, and it impedes the continuation of the peace process.

Peres: No Plan To Suspend Talks or Evacuate Settlements

TA1004111795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is demanding that Yasir 'Arafat bolster his efforts in the confrontation with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad and arrest the religious leaders who sent the suicide terrorists. Peres also said that the possibility of suspending the negotiations with the Palestinians has not been considered, just as the evacuation of settlements is not being considered. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] This morning, the team negotiating with the Palestinians gave Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a detailed report on the progress in the talks on the interim arrangement in Judeaea and Samaria and on elections in the territories. Following the discussion, planned prior to yesterday's two terrorist attacks in Gaza, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that there is no point in suspending the negotiations, a move that would play into the hands of the terrorists.

[Peres] We are continuing the negotiations on both levels. The elections, on the open level....[pauses] Mr. Yo'el Singer and his delegation left for Cairo this morning. We are looking into the other possibilities for implementing autonomy.

[Segal] Peres made these remarks at the ceremony where Martin Indyk presented his credentials as the U.S. ambassador to Israel. The foreign minister said that no discussions were held on the evacuation of Netzarim following yesterday's heartbreaking events, but added that it should be discussed without pressures and without grief.

Israel transmitted a clear message to 'Arafat: If he does not succeed in controlling the Gaza Strip or at least show that he is trying to seize control, he will create a big problem for himself. The Palestinian Authority [PA] is taking measures against terrorists but will be judged by the results, Peres said, clarifying the demands that were presented to Yasir 'Arafat:

[Peres] It is clear that the suicide attackers were incited by religious leaders. They must be apprehended because, in the final analysis, the suicide bombers are also victims: victims of stupidity and guile. Someone is luring them to commit murder. It is the PA's duty to bring these people to trial and to disarm people who bear weapons without authorization. I told 'Arafat that there can be many views but only one rifle.

[Segal] Peres stressed that the efforts to reach an agreement on the interim arrangement in Judaea and Samaria will continue until 1 July, but it is not totally clear if the foreign minister's position also reflects the prime minister's stand. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 10 April adds that at the ceremony at which Ambassador Indyk presented his credentials, "President 'Ezer Weizman said one cannot just go on with the peace talks with the Palestinians as though nothing had happened."

In a recorded passage, Weizman says: "I said that the peace process should be delayed. I repeated what I said two months ago, and I say it again: We have to think whether he can deliver and what should be our tactics re the terrorist activity. That's all."

Sources Say Rabin 'Adamant' Against Evacuating Settlements

TA0704182195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government has no operational plans for the evacuation of Netzarim, political elements announced tonight. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the official position has not changed in any way and that the prime minister is adamant that no settlements should be uprooted during the interim period. [passage omitted]

Shahal: Room for Conditions on Implementing Autonomy

TA1004130295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200
GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that there is room for setting conditions for the continued implementation of the autonomy plan. He said that as long as the Palestinian Autonomy does not do enough to prevent attacks we will continue to prevent the entry of Palestinians into Israel. He also said that there will be a separation between Israelis and Palestinians travelling on roads in the Gaza Strip. Police Chief Asaf Hefetz said that in his opinion a closure will be imposed on the territories prior to Passover.

Reportage on King Husayn's Visit to Canada**Meets With Canadian Prime Minister**

JN0704200395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Ottawa today.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means to promote them to the mutual interest of the two friendly countries. They also discussed a number of issues of joint interest, including the Canadian role in regional development and the Amman economic conference scheduled to be held in October.

His Majesty King Husayn also received Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet at his residence. They exchanged views on various current international issues, particularly those related to the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

The Canadian foreign minister welcomed His Majesty King Husayn to Canada, saying that this visit will bolster Canadian-Jordanian relations in the various fields. He added that Canada has great respect for Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn, and that it is looking forward to promoting relations between the two friendly countries.

His Majesty King Husayn also met with the chairman of the Foreign Relations and International Trade Committee at the Canadian Senate. They discussed Canada's role in the Amman economic conference and its participation in the economic and commercial projects.

Addresses Ottawa Dinner Banquet

JN0704202095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Speech by King Husayn at a dinner banquet hosted by Canada's Governor-General Ramon Hnatyshyn in Ottawa on 6 April—recorded, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your excellencies, on behalf of Nur and of myself, the prime minister of Jordan, and my colleagues and members of my family, may I express our deep gratitude for the warmth with which you have received us on this white day here [laughing] in the capital of Canada. I've had the privilege time and again to visit with you. And, I have seen and encouraged our relations to grow in all fields and areas. The relations between our two countries have indeed become stronger and are based on the solid foundation of mutual respect and trust. We treasure them, we value them, we value the friendship that exists between us, and we hope that these relations will continue to grow in all fields and areas. Canada has a special place in the hearts of Jordanians. Friendship brings with it understanding, and during some of the most difficult years in the life of Jordan, 1990 and the early nineties, the understanding of our friends in Canada of our position. This is something that

we will always remember and cherish. It is a friendship that has passed the test of time and difficult circumstances, an understanding that we enjoyed during that time of our friends will always be remembered by us.

We were against war in our region. We were against adventurism in our region. We were against the occupation of territories of other countries by some in our region. We tried to fulfill our duties to the best of our abilities and prevent damage and reverse the process in a peaceful way. We were concerned for human beings. We were concerned for the environment. We were concerned for the fabric that united us all in that region. And our friends here understood, and for that, we will always be grateful.

Jordan found itself during those years, and Jordan, hopefully, will make a contribution beyond what it has achieved so far, in being an example to others in our region and beyond. We are proud of our democracy, the pluralism which we enjoy in our country, our commitment to the cause of human rights, of our people sharing in shaping their future, and our contribution of late to a cause that has always been most important to us, the cause of peace in our region.

We are very happy to be a part of movement in the entire region towards peace, a lasting peace, a comprehensive peace, and we hope that the peace treaty between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will be a solid building block on our way to achieve the comprehensive peace we all seek. It will be, God willing, not be a peace between individuals or governments but a peace between peoples. It will be a peace that will bring together the talents and abilities of peoples to build and shape the better future, which is their right, and, hopefully, it will be a legacy that we will leave generations to come.

Thank you very much indeed, Sir, for your warm reception and your kind words. And we remember also many Canadians who served with us in our part of the world in peacekeeping missions and with the United Nations. The new international boundary that has been established for the first time between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel, however, has no United Nations observers or overseers from any part of the world.

We are proud, however, that our soldiers, together, share in many missions with the United Nations in other parts of the world, in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere, and we are proud to contribute our share in trying to achieve a better world and a more peaceful world and to contribute towards that end.

We know of your interest in our area and our region, your involvement with us in the multilateral negotiations, in the area of refugees, the environment, arms control. And we hope and pray that before too long, the entire region will be rid of weapons of mass destruction,

conventional and otherwise, and all of us are secure and all of us enjoy peace as will coming generations.

We are preparing for a major summit that will be held in Amman towards the end of the year, a follow-up on the Casablanca summit, to examine the possibilities and be more specific in addressing projects and opportunities which peace provides now in Jordan, in Israel, in the region. And we are sure that our friends will be with us there and friends from throughout the world will come and enjoy with us the benefits of peace. We are trying our best to bring about a change in the quality of life of people. Having achieved peace, we now have to contribute our utmost to building and consolidating peace in all forms and all ways.

Thank you very, very much indeed for your kindness. Once again, it is wonderful to be amongst friends and to feel, as we feel, at home. I would like you to join me in a toast to her majesty the queen, their excellencies the governor general of Canada and Mrs. (Lubla) and the people of Canada.

King Husayn, Queen Nur on Private Visit to UK

JN0904174495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur arrived in London from Canada last night on a private visit to the United Kingdom lasting several days. Their majesties, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince 'Ali and Prince Hamzah and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, were welcomed by British Foreign Office officials and Jordanian Embassy staff.

Al-Kabariti: King's U.S. Talks 'Highly Positive'

JN1004074695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on Sunday described as highly positive the outcome of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington and said American congressmen now had a better understanding of the Middle East peace process and Jordan's positions.

Mr. al-Kabariti was speaking two day after the U.S. Senate adopted a budget cut proposal that included a bill that absolves Jordan of all of its official debts to the United States. This would mean writing off nearly \$500 million with an expenditure of about \$275 million.

The full Senate bill, approved 99 to nil, will have to be reconciled with a similar House of Representatives bill after the U.S. Congress resumes sessions after a two-week recess.

Mr. al-Kabariti, who accompanied the King to the Washington meetings and returned home Saturday, said that President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials as well as American congressmen showed "very good understanding of Jordan's economic and security needs."

"On the whole the outcome of the meetings were very, very positive," said the foreign minister.

First and foremost, the King's visit to Washington "was a very good opportunity to familiarise many new members of Congress of the realities in the Middle East and Jordan's key role in the peace process." Mr. al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES.

New members of the American legislature "heard first-hand from His Majesty on the Middle East peace process and also on Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive peace in the region as well as the Kingdom's efforts," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

As a result, he added, "they expressed a better and serious understanding of the situation in the Middle East and also of Jordan's position."

Translated into action, this would mean congressional support for the administration's moves to assist Jordan in meeting its economic and security needs as well as positive backing for the kingdom's political moves in the regional and international scenes.

Mr. al-Kabariti said it was too early to discuss the specifics of expected American assistance to Jordan, noting the preoccupation with security debt relief for the Kingdom.

The Senate bill adopted on Friday appeared to be an additional measure that would ensure the full cancellation of Jordan's debts after a complex manoeuvring through the American constitutional process.

After the House of Representatives slashed to \$50 million an administration request for \$275 million to be used to relieve Jordan of its debt, the administration moved the Senate to approve the full allocation as part of a Department of Defence budget supplemental.

The move was approved by the Senate, but had to be reconciled with its House of Representatives version in a joint session of key members of the two chambers of the legislatures.

The joint session, known as a conference, was expected to take place last week, but was deferred until after the legislature's recess.

Despite the complex technicalities of the procedures, Mr. al-Kabariti said, "we were assured that the full debt relief will come after the recess, although it will not be on the same vehicle that we had expected it to be."

The meetings included a review of "what is happening in the Jordanian-Israeli track" after the two countries signed a peace treaty in October, the foreign minister said.

The discussions also covered "prospects for progress" in the Israeli-Palestinian, Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the 54-month old peace process, Mr. al-Kabariti said, noting that a state of peace in the entire Middle East region was "conditional" on equitable agreements between Israel and all Arab parties involved in the negotiations.

Also reviewed was the situation of Iraq, which is straining under international sanctions, and "how bad things are" for its 18 million people, Mr. al-Kabariti said without elaboration.

Jordan has been calling for an easing of the sanctions, pointing out the people were the victims of the sanctions, which have cut off all foreign revenues of the Iraqi government.

Mr. al-Kabariti did not say how the U.S. leaders responded to the Jordanian call.

In most cases when the plight of the Iraqi people is raised as an issue, Washington usually refers to U.N. offers to Iraq for limited oil sales under controlled conditions to raise funds to meet the emergency food and medicine needs of the Iraqi people.

The offers have not been accepted by Iraq, which says the conditions attached to the sales infringe on its sovereignty.

In Washington, the King also discussed Jordan's role in international peacekeeping operations and "how to strengthen this role," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

During his 12-day stay in the United States, the King received several awards for his contribution to peace in the Middle East, addressed gatherings at the Simon Weisenthal Centre, the Ronald Reagan Centre, and the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, and met with American Arab and American leaders, including the Conference of the Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, before starting a state visit to Canada on Thursday.

Al-Kabariti on Meeting to Discuss NPT, Iraqi Sanctions

JN1004111695 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 10 Apr (PETRA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that the Arab foreign ministers will convene in New York shortly to debate the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and the Arab position on its extension.

In another development, the foreign minister said in press statements that the [UN] draft resolution to allow Iraq to sell limited oil quantities is not a sufficient reward to the steps Iraq has taken in implementing UN resolutions. However, he noted, this draft resolution could indicate that the international community has started to acknowledge Iraq's humanitarian needs.

Al-Kabariti: Israeli Nuclear Facilities Must Be Watched

JN1004082595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 10 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that Jordan supports the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. However, he added, Jordan insists that the Israeli nuclear facilities should be subjected to supervision.

Al-Kabariti said that contacts will be held with Syria shortly.

In another development, al-Kabariti yesterday received Professor Shim'on Shamir, the Israeli ambassador to Jordan, who handed him a copy of his credentials as the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan.

Al-Kabariti Receives Israeli Ambassador's Credentials

JN0904172995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office today Professor Shim'on Shamir, appointed Israeli ambassador to Jordan, who presented al-Kabariti with a copy of his credentials as the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, Professor Shamir said: It is an honor for me to be appointed as the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan. He added: I will work hard to develop and reinforce relations between Jordan and Israel. He noted: My work here in Jordan will have many priorities, particularly developing bilateral relations in various fields. He added: Reaching a comprehensive peace between the Arab parties and Israel will contribute a great deal to the success of my mission as the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan.

Professor Shamir said that during his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, he conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He added that they also discussed bilateral relations and Israel's stand vis-a-vis bilateral issues and the peace process.

Paper Urges Israel 'To Draw Lessons' From 'Violent Actions'

JN1004080395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Apr 95 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "The Explosion Resulting From Utter Contradiction Between Peace and Settlement Activity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The bloody incidents that took place in the Gaza Strip yesterday vindicated the views of observers who, in the aftermath of the signing of the

illustrious Oslo agreement, said that the Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab Palestinian lands were time-bombs whose explosion could undermine the fragile groundwork of the agreement.

What happened yesterday near two Jewish settlements built amid a densely-populated Arab territory gives credence to the fact that peace and settlement activity are two conflicting realities that cannot be reconciled with each other. Israel's continued ignorance of this established reality is bound to weaken the peace process and expose it to extremely serious threats.

What makes the bloody scene in the Gaza Strip even more frightening is the fact that this endless chain of violent operations is taking place amid an extremely conducive environment. Despair, resulting from the crippling of the self-rule agreement implementation, coupled with other factors, like poverty and unemployment, created by the [Israel] policies of blockade and closure, give rise to even further violence.

Therefore, ignoring conspicuous facts, placing hurdles, and continuing to evade the implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement are acts that serve neither of the two parties involved in this agreement. Nor do they serve any of the Arab parties involved in the peace process, or the Israeli side that might lose the Palestinian partner, which has proved, thus far, to be capable of meeting its peace obligations. These acts have led the security situation in the occupied territories to deteriorate as is evident in the current developments.

Against this backdrop, we call on the Israeli Government to draw lessons from this endless series of violent actions which has caused many casualties. The Israeli Government should take the necessary steps to promote the peace process, the foremost of which are accelerating the negotiating process, proceeding to the second phase of the self-rule plan, and refraining from using security pretexts to delay the implementation of this agreement, which is standing at the moment on the brink of collapse.

Fadlallah Warns Israel Against Bombing Civilians*MM0604151495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
6 Apr 95 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: If Israel Shells Civilians Again, It Should Realize That Its Civilians Are Not Out of Danger"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Islamic scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in the weekly lesson on interpretation of the Koran yesterday, said that "the value of the Islamic resistance lies in the fact that it is politically mature. It does not indulge in uncalculated shelling. There are calculations for every shot, every device, and every missile." He said that the "resistance must protect its people, its masses, and its targeted kinfolk when Israel gives itself a free hand to impose its madness and its savagery on civilians."

Asked why Israeli officials backed down from their previous statements and were now calling for calm and adherence to the so-called "July understanding," he replied: "We knew from the beginning that Israel did not expect that heavy bombardment by the Islamic resistance, because of its arrogance of power, especially when it began to give itself a free hand in shelling peaceful villages, blockading ports, and staging air force flights day and night and breaking the sound barrier to remind people that it is the stronger power. They demonstrated a madness of power and thought that the resistance would not be able to retaliate, especially after the Israeli aircraft bombed the car carrying the martyred commander Rida Yasin. They considered that they had a long arm. Israel is always talking about its long arm, but the Islamic resistance was lying in wait. The value of the Islamic resistance lies in its political maturity. It does not engage in blind uncalculated shelling and, in its military or security plans, it does not act haphazardly. There are calculations for every shot, every device, and every missile fired. It tries not to miss its targets because the value of the resistance's weapons lies in the faith in God and in the calculations it makes."

He added: "The resistance weapons do not kill indiscriminately. The resistance tries not to hit civilians even if they are Jews but when Israel gives itself a free hand to impose its madness and savagery on civilians, then the resistance must protect its people, its masses, and its targeted faithful kinfolk. That is why it examined all the subjective political circumstances and concluded that Israel was facing a political dilemma because of its internal situation, the settlement complications, and the political situation in the region, and was in no position to mount a crazy security or military operation such as invasion or anything like that. That is why the resistance was able to launch its missiles in a way that would make Israel return to its senses if it had any. So, the Israeli enemy made many threats but then sought the help of the United States by asking it to intervene politically. The enemy recently said that it would do this and that, if

the shelling [of the settlements] is resumed. The resistance said that it would not resume its shelling of the Jewish settlements unless Israel resumed its shelling of civilians. Our civilians would not be the only ones killed as a result of shelling. They [the Israelis] should realize that their civilians would not be out of danger if they wanted the targeted people in Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biq'a to live in danger."

Hizballah Official on 'Resistance' Operations*NC0804191595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Telephone interview with Hizballah deputy leader Shaykh Na'im Qasim by unidentified correspondent on 8 April; place not given; from the "News And Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] As Hizballah deputy leader, what is the latest information you have on the extensive jihad operations launched by Hizballah in southern Lebanon and how do you assess the military and security situation in that region?

[Qasim] In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin carried out extensive operations at 0610 today against three positions: 'Alman, al-Shumariyah, and al-Qantarah. The mujahidin destroyed a tank and an armored personnel carrier along with their occupants. At 0745, the mujahidin attacked the al-Suwayda' and al-Tuhran posts. All in all, the operations were successful and effective, inflicting casualties on the agents of the Israeli enemy and the Israeli enemy.

The Israeli air raids and the support operations failed to end the dangers facing the Israelis and their agents. We believe that these operations are the natural response to the continuing Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. We also believe that this enemy only understands the language of eviction from the occupied territories. Through its military pressure this enemy is seeking to dictate its political terms. By striking at civilians in various areas in the south and in the Western al-Biq'a it is trying to show off its capabilities and dissuade the mujahidin from their jihad. But praise be to God and thanks to the blessing of Islam and the strong will of the strugglers, our struggling youths have decided to continue their operations to frustrate the enemy's political and military goals. Our mujahidin have long been on the initiative and have taken a offensive stance, not a defensive one.

[Correspondent] As far as you know, are these operations limited in scope and time or do they have long-term objectives; that is, they are of a strategic nature?

[Qasim] This is a military matter that is kept in secrecy. Sometimes the attacks target specific posts and in other times they involve ambushes or explosive devices. It is a question of the circumstances and the nature of the terrain. It is also a question of the unconventional military tactics followed by the resistance, which chooses

to attack at the right time to inflict as many casualties on the enemy as possible, using methods of resistance, not those of a regular army.

[Correspondent] Some link these attacks to U.S. regional coordinator Dennis Ross' tour. What do you say about this?

[Qasim] Whenever a U.S. envoy comes to the region, the media report that the operations that take place are meant to generate pressure for the sake of the negotiations. In the absence of intensive operations, the media say that this is meant to give an opportunity to the negotiators. So, analysts, politicians, and media commentators always have something to say, whether we carry out operations or not. As we have repeatedly stated, our operations are of a continuous nature and have nothing to do with the political circumstances surrounding the negotiations simply because we reject a settlement in the first place. These operations are related to the circumstances in the field—that is, the preparedness of our troops and the number of the casualties that can be inflicted on the enemy as a result of any operation.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Your Eminence.

[Qasim] You are welcome.

Hizballah Official Threatens Attacks on Israeli Settlements

NC0904164595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim [name as heard] has affirmed that rockets will not be far from Israeli settlements as long as innocent people and children in the Lebanese villages enjoy no safety.

Qasim was speaking in 'Atshit on the occasion marking the passage of one week since the death of Hizballah official Rida Yasin, who was killed in an attack by an Israeli gunship.

Video Shops in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Bombed

NC0704115695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five explosions occurred in video rental shops and a coffee shop in the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp [near Sidon] this morning.

Paper Reveals Plan To Smuggle Ja'ja' Into Israel

NC0804113595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 8 Apr (MENA)—Informed Lebanese sources have revealed a plan devised by the Israeli intelligence agencies to kidnap Dr. Samir Ja'ja', leader of the dissolved Lebanese forces, a Christian militia, from his prison at the Lebanese Defense Ministry.

The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR said some people in connection with the plan, who it said belonged to the dissolved Lebanese forces and traveled between Beirut and the occupied border strip in southern Lebanon, have been arrested.

The paper added that the plan to kidnap Ja'ja', who has been in custody for about 10 months, was devised in coordination with the Israeli intelligence agency official Uri Lubrani and head of the Lebanese forces' security apparatus Ghassan Tuma. Tuma is charged in connection with several crimes and is on the run travelling between the United States and Israel.

AL-SAFIR said Tuma held a series of meetings with Lubrani in south Lebanon's Israeli army-controlled border strip to draw up a plan to smuggle Ja'ja' from his cell at the Defense Ministry and transport him aboard an Israeli military helicopter into Israel. Reports indicated that a number of suspects have admitted the plan without specifying the time of its implementation.

Samir Ja'ja' is currently standing trial before the Lebanese judiciary on three charges: Blowing up east Beirut's al-Sayyidah Church, assassinating Dani Sham'un and his family, and assassinating a Lebanese politician. The public prosecution demanded a death sentence against Ja'ja' for the three charges.

'Security Reasons' Prevent Plane From Landing at Jeddah

NC0704170095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an exclusive report to our radio from Saudi Arabia, a Middle East Airlines [MEA] Boeing 707 was denied permission to land at Jeddah Airport after reaching Saudi airspace. Security reasons were cited, according to the telephone conversation between Jeddah Airport's control tower and the plane. The plane was on a flight between Khartoum and Beirut via Saudi Arabia. Among the 47 passengers on board the plane was Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of the Islamic Unification Movement, who was travelling from Sudan. Middle East Airlines has sent a plane from Beirut to Jeddah to pick up the Jeddah passengers coming to Beirut.

Saudi Envoy Holds Meeting With Hizballah Official

NC0704185995 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi has visited Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah. Hizballah issued a statement to this effect, saying the talks dealt with events in the region and the Israeli aggression against the south.

This is the first time the Saudi ambassador has met a Hizballah official.

Al-Asad, Other Officials Receive Dennis Ross

JN0804180795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian side to the peace process talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington.

On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Mark Paris, President Clinton's special assistant and director of Near East and South Asia Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council; and Christopher Ross, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Dennis Ross conveyed a message to the president from U.S. President Bill Clinton dealing with the peace process.

Talks revolved around the peace process and ideas that could contribute to pushing the peace process forward.

The president reiterated once again Syria's desire for a just and comprehensive peace in the region, alluding to Israel's stand and its attempts to evade the requirements of the peace process.

Tour Shows 'Serious' U.S. Concern

JN0804162795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The new mission of Dennis Ross, U.S. special coordinator of the peace process, comes as a continuation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent tour. This tour succeeded in the resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks on the ambassadorial level, with U.S. participation. It also put forth a mechanism for the course of the negotiating process which takes into consideration that every future step is linked to what is practically achieved in the preceding step.

However, before arriving in Damascus, Ross did not hide his pessimism after talks with Israeli officials. This brings us back to Syria's comments on the wave of optimism which Israel tried to spread after the two ambassadors spoke in Washington. It tried to exert pressure and exercise blackmail by fabricating an atmosphere of optimism and imposing dates for achieving results. Israel also tried to reap gains on the other negotiating tracks by giving the impression that progress had been made on the Syrian track.

Head of the Israeli Government Yitzhak Rabin quickly moved to end these waves of optimism. Moreover, Syria warned against deceptive optimism and early expectations of progress that has not been achieved. However, observers are waiting for Dennis Ross' tour to turn

optimism into reality. This depends on the Israeli stand which should be clear about commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and acceptance of the principle of parallel, equal, and equitable [al-mutawaziyah wa al-mutasawiyah wa al-mutakafi'ah] security arrangements.

It is well known that Israel is fabricating obstacles and planting mines and does not stop maneuvering to avoid the principle of full withdrawal for full peace that translates the essence of the land-for-peace principle, which constitutes the core of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 on which the peace process and its long course are based.

The long and bitter experience with the Israeli negotiator confirmed to all observers that the removal of Israeli obstacles will not be easy. This is especially so given Israel's intransigent rejection of international legitimacy and the bases of a just and comprehensive peace, and with Rabin's eagerness to project a hawkish image inside the Labor Party and in the political and party arena after he was seen, and promoted by Israeli propaganda, as a peacemaker on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. He, therefore, is escalating aggression against southern Lebanon and its secure villages and is barricading himself behind inflexible stands in the peace talks represented by continuous avoidance of the peace requirements, foremost among which is a full withdrawal.

It is now clear that full withdrawal is the real key to peace. All Israeli peace claims will be useless if they are not coupled with a commitment to full withdrawal and an abandonment of obstructive conditions that are not in line with the peace intentions toward security and stability in the region.

The conditions Israel is adhering to are totally removed from the resolutions of international legitimacy and from justice and comprehensiveness that are the essence of the desired peace. Moreover, it is absolutely clear that adherence to impossible security conditions is a cover for the continuation of all or some of the occupation. The entire world views peace as the real guarantee for security in an era of missiles and advanced military technology. The proposed security arrangements, which conflict with the principle of sovereignty and give Israel the right to blatantly interfere in the affairs of the negotiating Arab parties, is nothing more than an impossible demand, based on the full knowledge that Syria will not accept anything that contradicts its full sovereignty over its territories and the Security Council resolutions, and anything that harms its dignity.

Syria announced its acceptance of security arrangements—ones that are equitable, parallel, and equal on both sides of the borders after an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. Inasmuch as Ross' tour gives an impression of serious U.S. concern about pushing the peace process forward, the Israeli negative signs which preceded Ross' arrival in Damascus confirm the need to activate the U.S. role and exert further influence on the

Israel stand, which is keeping the peace process in a deadlock. Unless Ross is carrying something new, it will be hard to expect a way out of this deadlock.

U.S. Peace Efforts, Security Arrangements Viewed
JN0904082395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 9 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the tour of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, which aims to advance the peace process.

Under the headline "The Israeli Evasion," the newspaper says: Syria's reiteration, through its leader, of the need to realize a just and comprehensive peace stems from the important and basic fact that if peace is not based on justice, legitimacy, comprehensiveness, and the restoration of rights and lands, it will not be peace but a relinquishment, concession, and capitulation.

Syria is not at all one of those who can be drawn into such a situation, or deceived by temptations, or affected by pressures in order to accept the Israeli conditions, pretexts, and ideas.

TISHRIN emphasizes that Syria enjoys credibility and adheres to the principles, bases, and pillars of a just and comprehensive peace, while Israel continues to wager on illusions and ideas that are far from the real aspired peace.

It adds: At every stage, Israel places new obstacles on the path of peace. In addition to its rejection of full withdrawal from the occupied territories, it is now placing new obstacles related to the so-called security arrangements. This clearly shows that Israel continues to adhere to its positions, which do not at all contribute to the making of peace.

Under the headline "Full Withdrawal in Return for Full Peace," AL-BA'TH says: Syria's agreement to discuss security arrangements, about which there has been much talk recently, aimed to give a push and a new chance to peace and to the U.S. sponsor's efforts.

It adds: Israel's talk about these arrangements from its policeman's perspective [manzuriha al-shuratiyy], giving flimsy security pretexts refuted by modern war machines, is merely an attempt to make impossible demands within the framework of its policy to obstruct the peace efforts—a policy Israel has been following since the Madrid conference.

AL-BA'TH says: What Israel presents about security arrangements, especially from the geographical point of view, is also a mere illusion that is far from reality. Inasmuch as the land-for-peace principle is a basic mainstay of the peace initiative that cannot be misinterpreted, security arrangements cannot be realized without equality [musawah], balance [tawazun], and reciprocity [taqabul].

AL-THAWRAH today reviews the atmosphere of the peace process, saying: Israel should have proven its real desire for a just and comprehensive peace and its acceptance of its requirements when the peace process was launched three and a half years ago. Foremost of these requirements is full withdrawal from southern Lebanon, the Golan, and all the occupied Arab territories. However, the Israeli officials did the opposite through procrastination and deception. They continue to emphasize their insistence on occupying lands to which they have no right.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Syria has always stressed that peace is a strategic and firm option of its policy, but it should be based on national and pan-Arab constants and should meet the objective requirements represented in Israel's full withdrawal and the return of lands and rights to their owners. It is peace that heralds a new stage of regional security and stability. Any other peace will have nothing to do with real peace and will continue to be incomplete and prone to changes and developments because peace in essence means a final end to aggression.

Concluding its editorial, the newspaper says: Based on this, any progress sought by the U.S. efforts and aspired by the international community is linked to what Israel offers in terms of commitment to full withdrawal and acceptance of the principle of equitability [takafu'] in security requirements and equality [tasawi] in its arrangements. When Israel abandons its intransigence, meets these requirements, and honors these commitments, the road to peace will be open.

Damascus Radio Reports Car Bombing in Kfar Darom

JN0904123995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—A car bomb went off near the Kfar Darom settlement in the Gaza Strip today while an Israeli Egged bus was passing nearby. News agencies said full details about the number of those killed or wounded have not yet been made available.

In a preliminary account, Israeli radio said that four Israelis were killed and that 30 to 40 others were wounded. News agencies said that the occupation authorities sealed off the area of the explosion and sent in military reinforcements. They are now carrying out large-scale searching and storming campaigns in the area.

The head of the Jewish villages in the Gaza Strip said that the incident resulted from the explosion of a car that was parked near a bus carrying Israeli settlers from the West Bank.

Israeli, Palestinian Reaction Noted

JN0904191395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Responding to the al-Shaykh Radwan District explosion which targeted a number of

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cadres, the Palestinian intifadah carried out two attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers near two settlements in the Gaza Strip today. The first explosion took place near the Kfar Darom settlement, when a booby-trapped car driven by one of the fighters of the Islamic Jihad Movement exploded. The explosion targeted an Israeli bus. It killed six Israelis and injured over 40 others. That was followed by another explosion near the Netzarim settlement when another truck exploded. This explosion resulted in the killing or wounding of a number Israeli settlers. The Islamic Jihad movement claimed the first operation while Hamas claimed the second.

The two movements stressed that the two operations were to avenge the martyrs who fell in the explosion perpetrated in the al-Shaykh Radwan District in Gaza last Sunday.

As the Israeli occupation sealed off the two areas, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian self-rule authority, hastened to denounce the two operations, describing them as terrorist.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, accompanied by a number of senior Israeli officers, inspected the scenes of the two operations. In statements, he vowed to continue the Gaza Strip closure, demanding the self-rule authority to prove its ability to confront what he called terrorist action.

The Israeli Government held a meeting at which it discussed the results of the two operations and decided to take stringent military measures to confront such operations.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reiterated the Israeli Government's determination to continue an unremitting war against Palestinian resistance movements. Israeli Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein stated that Israel will not implement the second phase of the Oslo agreement unless the self-rule authority waged a devastating war against the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements.

With regard to the reactions of the self-rule authority, Yasir 'Arafat condemned the Palestinian resistance operations against the Israeli occupation. He said such operations aim to confuse his authority and to give Israel pretexts to postpone its withdrawal from the West Bank. 'Arafat reiterated his commitment to combat the Palestinian resistance whom he charged as terrorists and enemies of peace.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, member of the limited self-rule authority, said that the limited self-rule authority will take tough measures against whoever deals with explosives. He said that the limited self-rule authority has not been firm enough so far against individuals in possession of firearms.

Netzarim Settlement Shows 'Expansionist Mentality'

JN0904184995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: The Netzarim settlement in the Gaza Strip is an example of the Zionist expansionist mentality which gives expansion and settlement building precedence over any logical and practical considerations. Only about 30 Jewish families live in the Netzarim settlement. However, because of the location of this settlement in the Gaza Strip, Israel is forced to guard it with an entire battalion of occupation troops. Nevertheless, the Netzarim settlement or its protection force come under frequent armed resistance operations by the resistance heroes in the Gaza Strip.

This has made some Jews ponder the usefulness of maintaining such a settlement and bearing the burdens of maintaining it. However, the Likud Party rejects the mere consideration of evacuating the Netzarim settlement. As for the representatives of the ruling authority, they say that evacuating Netzarim is not under consideration now, but can be discussed within the final arrangements with the limited self-rule authority. For their part, representatives of the limited self-rule authority believe that if Israel closes Netzarim, that will be considered a positive indication of the possibility of evacuating some settlements in the West Bank to reduce friction between the Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Jewish settlers.

However, it is absolutely clear that the ruling Israeli authority will not give up any settlement in the West bank or Gaza Strip. Rather, it is planning to expand settlement activity by adding thousands of housing units to the existing settlements. It is also confiscating more Arab land to establish new Jewish settlements on them, especially on the so-called green line; that is, the old 1948 truce lines. All this is happening despite Israel's signing of the Oslo agreement, which did not bring back a single Palestinian right or a single inch of territory from the occupied Palestinian territory.

Israeli 'Espionage Satellite' Strongly Condemned

JN1004102495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria yesterday strongly condemned the launching of the Israeli espionage satellite which passes over Syrian, Iraqi, and Iranian territories.

Damascus said this operation could have a negative impact on the peace negotiations.

Al-Ahmar Reiterates Stand on Peace, NPT

JN0704181895 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, at a rally held at

Damascus University auditorium to mark the 48th anniversary of the Ba'th Party—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Throughout its history, our nation has always been a peaceful nation. We are now struggling to achieve peace; a just and comprehensive peace which restores rights to their owners. It is peace which ends aggression and occupation and all the repercussions of occupation and aggression. It is peace which safeguards our Arab nation's dignity. It is peace which entrenches security, stability, and progress for all the region's peoples and states.

Syria is struggling to achieve this just and comprehensive peace. In this struggle, it adheres to the constants and principles on which the peace process was based in order to achieve Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4-June 1967 lines, from southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories. The objective of this adherence to constants is: First, to support Arab rights; second to entrench true peace. These two issues go hand in hand. Only those who do not work for peace, but work to impose hegemony and tyranny, deviate from them. Israel tirelessly seeks to obstruct the peace process by all means. It seeks to single out some Arab sides and to impose solutions on them which only achieve its aggressive and expansionist interests.

The continuous terroristic Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is a link in a plan to impose capitulation on the Arabs [chants and applause], to weaken Syria, to undermine pan-Arab coordination between Syria and Lebanon, and to force Lebanon to accept separate solutions which only achieve Israel's interests and its ambitions for hegemony and tyranny. The brutality and terroristic nature of this aggression have exceeded all limits.

Our heroic Lebanese people carry out relentless resistance against this aggression. This resistance shows the lofty and bright face of the Arab nation and the true nature of this nation for which it has been known throughout history. It is a struggler nation characterized by loftiness, pride, and dignity. It is a nation which does not accept injustice and aggression. Israel must understand that Lebanon is not alone. Israel must also know that its continuous aggression will fail completely just like all its previous attempts to strike and weaken Lebanon. It must further know that it cannot escape the implementation of Resolution 425. Lebanon has stressed, and continues to stress, its free decision to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to coordinate with Syria. It has always stressed that it will not relinquish its territory. Israel's aggression will only escalate tension in the region and claim the lives of more innocent civilians in the cities and villages of steadfast southern Lebanon. It is a useless aggression because capitulation cannot be imposed on a lofty state and a

lofty people who are determined to liberate the last occupied inch of their land. [chants and applause]

Syria's role and struggle complement the Lebanese people's struggle. They complement the resistance of our brave kinfolk on the Golan in their confrontation of a most ferocious aggression which seeks to erase the Syrian Arab identity of the Golan land and people, and violate human rights on it, particularly its basic right to its identity and affiliation.

This struggle is also in line with the intifadah of our heroic Palestinian Arab people. This intifadah translates into action the people's rejection of all the agreements that achieve their enemy's interests and lead to complete subservience to these interests. Greetings to this heroic people who, a few days ago, celebrated Land Day, the day of struggle and sacrifice, the day for enhancing the free popular will that refuses submission and capitulation. [applause]

Comrades, as part of its schemes to impose hegemony on the region, Israel continues to stockpile all kinds of weapons, particularly an arsenal of nuclear weapons, and those of mass destruction. It refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Comrades, Syria stresses that this treaty must be universal and comprehensive and that no one should be exempted from signing it. Syria also emphasizes the importance of developing this treaty in a manner that is commensurate with its objectives to ban the deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

While we are at the threshold of the international conference on this treaty, we should underscore the importance of uniform yardsticks and nonexceptions, particularly if the exempted party is Israel which has become accustomed to aggression and to the violation of international law.

Syria will not sign the treaty's extension unless Israel joins it. In all cases, Syria's decisions will be based on the objective of safeguarding its rights and interests and pan-Arab interests and rights.

Comrades, Esteemed Audience: Syria continues to make efforts to render the peace process a success. Within the framework of these efforts, Syria agreed to the Washington meeting, thus giving the U.S. sponsor more time to consolidate its efforts to make the peace process a success and to remove the obstacles Israel places on the road to peace, particularly since the United States is the owner of the initiative and a co-sponsor of the peace process. Syria states that security should be balanced [mutawazin] and reciprocal [mutabadal] to establish a solid base for stability in the region. This balance requires equality [musawah] and equitability [takafu'] among the parties concerning all the factors and components needed to achieve this security. [applause] [passage omitted]

Afghanistan**Government Troops, Taliban Clash in North**

LD0804172995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting between the Taliban and forces of the Afghan Government have spread to two more provinces. The Taliban said that they launched attacks against positions of forces supporting Rabbani starting on the afternoon of 7 April in the provinces of Baghlan and Badakhshan in northern Afghanistan. The Taliban spokesman said: The local commanders of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami cooperated with the Taliban in the attack on the province of Baghlan.

In the meantime, a source at the Afghan consulate in Peshawar confirmed that fighting had taken place, but said that the Taliban had suffered heavy casualties and damage during the attacks and that they had been forced to retreat.

Ismail Khan Calls Taliban 'Pakistan's Agents'

LD0904171095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashio to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview, General Azimi, Ismail Khan's spokesman, called the Taliban Pakistan's agents. In his interview, he described as unfounded the claims of the Taliban about fighting around Shindand airport. He added that now heavy fighting is continuing between his forces and those of the Taliban in Nimroz, Farah, and Farah Rud areas. General Azimi said: The Taliban has sent a delegation to them asking for talks on resolving their problems. But in response we told them that they should first lay down their weapons and return the control of the provinces of Nimroz and Farah to us.

In another section of his interview he said that the group called Taliban are Pakistan's agents. The capture of Pakistanis in the battlefield confirms this assertion. The Taliban are paid 15,000 rupees per person by the Pakistanis. Therefore, we can say that Pakistan is interfering in the internal affairs of our country.

Touching on the general situation of Jihad he said: In the course of the Jihad years Pakistan has not closed the doors of any religious school and sent the Taliban to fight for the Jihad, but now they have closed all religious schools and are sending the Taliban to fight against us.

Answering a question on the Pakistan's desire to establish a trade link with Central Asia through Afghanistan, General Azimi said: This is now impossible. We will only give a trade passage to Pakistan when it lives in an atmosphere of good-neighborhood with us. But now we notice that this country blatantly interferes in the internal affairs of our country.

Rabbani's Refusal To Transfer Power Criticized

LD0904205095 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashio to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After a warning by Mahmoud Mestiri, special UN envoy for Afghanistan, that [Afghan President Borhanoddin] Rabbani will face international isolation if he carries on as head of state, once again the Kabul administration has, as an act of deception, declared that it is completely ready to accept UN plans. But when they are talking about power transfer, their aim is just a window dressing, not the real transfer of power. The assertion of the Kabul administration that, before the transfer of power first a reliable council shall be set up, means that either the crown of power should be put on the head of Rabbani or apparently Rabbani shall be replaced by a person who is loyal to the present set-up in Kabul.

If the setting up of a council and the representation of provinces is not an excuse, how much can the Kabul administration show it has done in this direction? Similarly, if Rabbani really wants to transfer the power, what is the meaning of the cabinet reshuffle? Taking into account the fact that for three years all ministries were run by deputy ministers, will a big problem come about if the appointments of ministers are delayed for a few more days? Regrettably, it should be said, not only was Rabbani not ready to step aside but also the Kabul administration embarks on new military operations every time the visits of peace delegations accelerate. And they speak about the peace process only to beguile their opponents. It should be mentioned that if Rabbani once again refuses to transfer power, the nation's patience will come to an end, and he will no more be able to deride this nation. Rabbani faces many problems in his attempts to gain full control of the affairs. He should know that he will not only face international isolation, as Mr. Mestiri said, but he will also be alone among his own nation as well. Here we give an account of the powers that work against him:

1. The high coordination council, which is made of four parties, is still there and is as powerful as it used to be. No damage has been inflicted on this council's military might during recent events and incidents in Kabul, which can make the other side confident about its military victory. Despite the fact that Hezb-e Islami [Islamic Party] has left its positions in Logar and Charasiab, its military and combat strength is untouched. [Words indistinct] if the martyrdom of Mr. Mazari and the loss of trenches in the west of Kabul have affected [word indistinct] of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party], the number of its supporters has increased in the central parts of the country. The martyrdom of Mr. Mazari and the atrocities committed against the Shiite population in the west and south of Kabul by the Supervisory Council has brought together the people of the central parts of the country in Hezb-e Wahdat. [Passage indistinct]

2. The Taliban group, which apparently had no hostility toward the Kabul administration until it reached the doors of Kabul, now is engaged in battles against the Kabul administration on many fronts. On top of this

Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement], which had so far been an ally of the Kabul administration, has cut off relations with Mr. Rabbani and its members have given up their government posts. Now it has revolted against him. There are differences among the senior members of the Islamic Alliance Party, too, and most members of its central council oppose Mr. Rabbani's administration. Some members of the Islamic Alliance are against the decisions of their leaders and some others have had enough of the Supervisory Council's arrogance. So most of them are against the present administration. Now the Kabul administration only has Ismail Khan of Herat and the people of Panjsher and Yaftal. The behavior of the leaders of the Supervisory Council in Parwan and Kapisa has revealed the real faces of its leaders. There is no district across the country that supports or sympathizes with the Kabul administration.

In conclusion we can say that if Mr. Rabbani and his friends fail to take into account the opinion of the nation and ignore it, it will be the last and worst mistake of Mr. Rabbani.

India

Hillary Clinton's Visit Termed 'Disappointment'

BK0704124595 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English
3 Apr 95 p 11

[Article by Bishakha De Sarkar: "Kid Gloves of a Strange Visitation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For someone spurred by the goal of empowering women, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton came to India curiously disempowered. For, after her short sojourn in India, it was clear that Mrs Clinton had come visiting not as a powerful policymaker of the United States, but as a demure First Lady on an ineffectual goodwill mission.

For all those looking forward to Mrs Clinton's arrival, her pallid agenda came as a disappointment. After all, her three-day stint in India was being seen as the next best thing after a presidential visit. And since the last US president to visit India was Mr Jimmy Carter way back in 1979, the First Lady's short stay in India—it was hoped—would look into the moribund state of Indo-American ties.

The expectations were high because Mrs Clinton was no ordinary visitor, and not just a First Lady either. A firebrand administrator, a feminist, a brilliant lawyer and the force behind Mr Bill Clinton's task force on health reforms, she was perceived as a decisionmaker and one of the main pillars of the US administration. Sometimes described as copresident of the US, it has often been said that the wrong Clinton had been elected to the highest office in the US.

Mrs Clinton has had experience not just in the all important sector of health, but in the field of education

as well. She is a politically influential woman who has always spoken passionately on the rights of women and on involving the poor in a country's economic and development process. She headed 34 working groups and 500 employees—all looking into the \$800 billion health care industry in the US. And, if all this was not enough, she has the president's ear.

Little wonder then that when Mrs Clinton accepted the invitation to visit India, New Delhi thought it had effected a diplomatic coup. But her schedule—which was originally slated to be a leisurely stay in India—was soon altered to put in four other south Asian nations, including Pakistan, in her tour programme.

The rationale behind the change was a so called two-country rule in effect in the US, under which no senior US official can visit India or Pakistan unless a tour was made of the other country as well. So, Mrs Clinton's March 24 to April 6 programme was altered to include not just Pakistan, but—since she was in the neighbourhood—Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as well.

Not only was her programme in India diluted, substantial changes were made in the whole gamut of talks too. Earlier, her visit was envisaged as a ground for talks on bilateral relations and regional security, peace efforts and cooperation. Washington even hinted that the non-proliferation treaty issue could come up for discussion during her talks with Indian leaders.

It was only later that the tenor of her talks was limited to exchanges on issues such as the empowerment of women, literacy and education. President Clinton elaborated in Washington that Mrs Clinton would focus on the "human side of politics, policy and diplomacy" during her tour of south Asia. It was evident that Mrs Clinton was leaving the thorny and often contentious issues of politics to her husband, concentrating on the social sector.

Washington watchers believe that Mrs Clinton's decision to stick to the so called soft issues was a deliberate one. After a US poll demonstrated the people's unhappiness over the fact she was being seen as the co-president, a line of demarcation was apparently drawn. It is said that the Clintons decided that while the husband would concentrate on masculine matters such as politics and security, his wife would deal with social issues.

But all those in India who thought that her visit would lead to an insight into the sector of health—one of the most neglected spheres of Indian life—were equally mistaken. For, in her first major tour abroad, Mrs Clinton's advisers restricted her programme to calling on the president, a visit to an orphanage, hugging and kissing children, an occasional lecture and a couple of lunches and banquets.

Mrs Clinton did meet the prime minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. Both the Indian premier and the US visitor spoke of economic reforms. Mrs Clinton stressed

the need for the direct participation of the people in a country's process of development. She lauded the role of non-governmental organisations and the voluntary sector. She also spoke of an internationalised women's movement and the urgent need to empower women.

It was at a lecture organised by her hosts in India, the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, where Mrs Clinton was at her expansive best. She spoke of the need to focus on education and health care for women and girls, and condemned those who treated these subjects as "soft" issues. And reforms alone, she pointed out, were rarely sufficient for sustainable development.

In her quest to empower women, she visited Ela Bhatt's Self-Employed Women's Association in Ahmedabad. And at a lunch at Roosevelt House, she met 20 leading women from different fields for over two hours. Among them were two prominent activists of the Indian women's movement, Ms Urvashi Butalia and Ms Ranjana Kumari.

But Mrs Clinton's bid to uplift the lot of women came at a time her country was leading the North in voicing its disapproval of the South's stands on the issues of women and health. At a recent meeting in New York for the coming Beijing summit on women, the North South divide on the status of women and on the crucial issue of women's health was as apparent as ever.

While the developing world believed that any strategy to be adopted for the uplift of women needed to look into the causes of poverty affecting one half of the world's population the West sought to shift the focus from poverty to social issues.

The subject came up during the discussions between the Indian women activists and Mrs Clinton at the lunch hosted at the ambassador's official residence in New Delhi. It was pointed out that while reproductive health was high on the Western nations' agenda, more important for the developing world was the issue of comprehensive health for women. The activists felt that they had conveyed their point across to Mrs Clinton, who— they further hoped—would take the matter up in Beijing.

Mrs Clinton's position at the fourth world women's meet will be clear in six months. But for the moment, what is obvious is that there is little she said in India beyond what has already been stressed at the first world summit on social development in Copenhagen. The US president had not been present at the meeting, indicating no doubt the priority he attached to the sector. But Mrs Clinton was there, graciously announcing a \$100 million aid for developing nations in three continents over 10 years.

India, Mrs Clinton announced in New Delhi recently, would be the first country to get a share of the aid. The \$100 million spread over 10 years and three continents, however, boils down to \$3 million per year per continent. How much India will be entitled to of this amount earmarked for Asia still remains to be seen.

Resources apart, there was yet another side to the US First Lady's tour of India: her visit to Pakistan. The outcome of top US officials' visit to India can usually be gauged by balancing it against their tour of Pakistan. In Mrs Clinton's case, the US administration sought to treat both India and Pakistan with kid gloves, giving them both equal treatment.

So, if she held talks with Mr Rao in New Delhi, she had a session with the Pakistani prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad. If she recited a verse written by a young college girl in New Delhi, she had a long talk with a group of college students in Islamabad. If she visited an organisation for women in Ahmedabad, she stopped by to watch Pakistani women at work along the Indo-Pakistani border. And if she visited a school for the underprivileged in the Indian capital, she had a tour of a similar outfit in Lahore. At the end of it all, Mrs Clinton could well have been the Princess of Wales graciously visiting poorer nations.

During her lecture at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Mrs Clinton had spoken warmly of the poem written by the Delhi student. "I seek to forget the silence of my grandmother's sorrow," was the last line of the verse. In New Delhi, it was Mrs Clinton's silence that was deafening.

BJP Pledges To Make Nuclear Arms If in Power

*BK0804120795 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
4 Apr 95 p 9*

[Report by Ashwant Talwar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PANAJI—The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], on Monday [3 April] said, India would make nuclear bomb if the party came to power. The BJP criticised the Narasimha Rao Government for 'giving up' the nuclear option.

Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, spoke on behalf of the party while releasing a resolution adopted by the BJP national executive to the press. Monday was the second day of the executive meeting.

The resolution on the nuclear option and development of an indigenous missiles system, however, did not specifically call for the production of nuclear weapons. But while answering questions, Mr Vajpayee declared that a BJP government would make nuclear weapons. He made clear that the BJP did not favour nuclear proliferation. However, disarmament had to begin with those who possessed the weapons. India had to keep in mind security threats both from Pakistan and China, he said.

He was certain that Pakistan had developed a nuclear device. "India doesn't have a bomb, though we have the capability," he added.

The resolution accused the Narasimha Rao Government of succumbing to American pressure both on keeping open its nuclear option and development of missiles.

And it cautioned the Government against agreeing to a ban on the production of fissile material, unless the arrangement was 'absolutely non-discriminatory.'

Apart from capping the production of fissile material, a 'satisfactory' agreement must not allow the continued possession of nuclear weapons by some states.

Elaborating on the resolution Mr Vajpayee said that a ban on producing fissile material will in effect, close India's nuclear option and will not make any difference for countries which had stockpiled more weapon grade material than they needed.

India's adherence to a ban on fissile material production 'will tantamount to adhering to the Non-Proliferation Treaty through the back door,' the national executive resolution said.

"The BJP is in favour of a nuclear weapon free world, but not for a world in which a few countries possess nuclear weapons and the rest are subject to their hegemony," it added.

The party regretted the fact that this also happens to be the broad government policy. And it felt that the negotiations Centre has entered into, have put this policy in peril.

The resolution demanded that the 250 kms range Prithvi missile should be produced serially and inducted into the armed forces, and work on the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Agni, should be 'immediately resumed.'

The demand is made in the context no reports that Mr Robert Einhorn, a senior official in the US Defence Department, had told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Agni was now in a period of hibernation.

The BJP is seeking a categorical comment on Mr Einhorn's testimony from the Rao Government.

Mr Einhorn's statement indicated a 'significant change in our missile development policy,' the resolution said, adding that it negated the assurance given to the nation by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day address last year.

The discontinuance of development and production of the two missiles was "a great setback to our military preparedness," the BJP document said.

The resolution said, there were 'inspired reports' that India might be granted the status of a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council if it gave up its nuclear option.

Criticizes Clinton on Pressler Amendment

BK0704021895 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1630 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has criticized President Clinton's remarks about easing sanctions on Pakistan imposed under the Pressler

Amendment. In a press release, the BJP said the U.S. President's remarks come even as the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, admitted the nuclear capability of his country. The party has asked the U.S. to stick to the Pressler Amendment, under which economic and military aid to Pakistan was stopped.

Minister Comments on Pakistan's Nuclear Reactor

BK0904125495 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi says Pakistan prime minister's admission that her country is setting up a nuclear reactor capable of producing plutonium confirms apprehensions that the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] has failed to check clandestine transfer of nuclear technology. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said this will increase Pakistan's striking power militarily. He was reacting to newsmen's query on reports from Washington about Ms. Benazir Bhutto's disclosure that her country is building the reactor at Khushab. Mr. Mukherjee, who returned to the capital after attending the meeting with European Troika in Paris, said that India is not participating in the NPT review meeting later this month as an observer. He said New Delhi's position is clear and it opposes the treaty in the present discriminatory form.

U.S. Policy Toward Pakistan Said 'Blatantly Partisan'

BK0804110495 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi
7 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Inauspicious Portents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The US Administration's sudden softening in its attitude towards Pakistan on the eve of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's U.S. visit and indications of the possibility of the removal of the Pressler Amendment to resume its military help to Pakistan offer yet more evidence of the United States' narrow minded and blatantly partisan diplomacy. The earlier evidence was given by the United States when the country declared Pakistan to be one of the countries prominently fighting against the menace of terrorism. A nation which, until yesterday, was threatening to include Pakistan on the list of terrorist countries and was convinced of Pakistan's involvement in all kinds of chicanery, perjury, theft, and smuggling to manufacture nuclear weapons. The United States suddenly does a somersault and starts calling the self same Pakistan a real supporter of the cause of democracy, human rights, and peace; this betrays a wayward mind and the utterances of this country need to be taken with a pinch of salt because this superpower is losing its credibility. Will the United States care to tell the world what has Pakistan accomplished during the last one or two months to warrant such a kind response from it? Has Pakistan done anything to fight terrorism, halt the arms' race, or uphold the

sanctity of human rights? Is not the U.S. president listening to the voice of his own party senators who are opposing any revision to the Pressler Amendment tooth and nail? Has he also forgotten that many reports were presented in the U.S. Congress itself, reports which mentioned Pakistan's deep complicity in international Muslim extremism?

Bill Clinton asserts that he wants to revise the Pressler Amendment only because it is failing to serve the purpose for which it was devised. But if the Pressler Amendment fails to serve its purpose or, in other words, if Pakistan has not given up its resolve to manufacture nuclear weapons—what justification is there to make the amendment more lenient? On the contrary, the situation demands that the Pressler Amendment be made more stringent.

Of course the United States has every right to recklessly and whimsically alter its policy towards Pakistan, especially in the light of the statement made by Robin Raphel, U.S. assistant secretary of state, that Pakistan was refusing to retrace the steps already taken to manufacture nuclear weapons. But, the United States then cannot claim any credibility in its statements or any prudence in its policies which seem to be as fickle as the wind.

Consequences of Repealing Pressler Amendment Viewed

BK1004084295 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 95 p 13

[Editorial: "End of Pressler Law?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Benazir Bhutto's apparent success in lobbying with US legislators for modification of the Pressler law makes it virtually certain that America's nuclear sanctions against Pakistan will be called off. In fact, it is the Congress which has proved to be the toughest hurdle on the way to resuming military and economic aid to Pakistan, suspended by the Bush administration in October 1990, after the US President failed to certify that Islamabad does not have a nuclear weapons programme. Various members of the Clinton team, principally Defence Secretary William Perry, have for some time been propagating the view that the Pressler law has failed to achieve its objective, namely, prevention of nuclear proliferation in South Asia. They have, therefore, been pleading for at least a one-time exception to the Pressler law to transfer 28 F-16s out of a bigger consignment for which Pakistan had paid but which had not been delivered. With President Bill Clinton himself now agreeing to reconsider the Pressler law and Senate majority leader Bob Dole promising to follow up on his talks with Ms Bhutto, it is now only a matter of time before the F-16 aircraft, airborne early-warning systems and other equipment are shipped to Pakistan. Senator Larry Pressler's desperate plea to the US legislators for a CIA briefing, which informed him that Pakistan has acquired nine nuclear bombs, is a cry

in the wilderness. When the US decides not to see, the thickest of lenses cannot penetrate the darkness.

The death of the Pressler law has effectively been ordained, but when will life ebb out is a matter of speculation. A certain time consuming procedure is unavoidable in modifying a law. Even if that was not the case, the US would probably wait for the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] review conference later this month for the treaty's extension. The paramount US objective of an unconditional extension may be difficult to achieve if Washington were to brazenly reward Pakistan for acquiring nuclear bombs. The US move drastically alters the security environment of South Asia, because it not only condones Pakistan's nuclear weapons but makes available sophisticated aircraft to carry them. The single act of resuming military aid to Pakistan is certain to encourage terrorists in Kashmir, threatening to jeopardise the electoral process that has been initiated in the State. The much advertised US policy of evenhandedness in South Asia has often amounted to no more than slogan mongering, and could be passed over. But the new US move will give a kick-start to a new round of arms race in the region. American leverage with India to make it go slow over the Prithvi and Agni projects is likely to decline. And, the India authorities would be hardly to blame if they decided to dust up their rocket files again. To talk of one-time exceptions is plain poppy-cock. When people repeatedly violate principles they had themselves set, it ceases to look a violation.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Statements

LD0904173995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohammadi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, has said the following in connection with the recent remarks made by a U.S. senator who had called on the Zionist regime to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear installations: Such remarks reveal clearly who is against peace in the world and who encourages the aggressive and terroristic operations of the Zionist regime.

He went on to say: These propaganda attacks and provocative maneuvers by the United States and the Zionists are familiar to us and have no novelty value. However, the international community should, nonetheless, question the United States with regards to its behavior that runs contrary to international norms and regulations and its anti-peace remarks and actions.

Mr. Mohammadi then strongly rejected a recent claim made in an American newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES, suggesting that a number of foreign companies had tried to transfer two oil platforms secretly from Iran to Serbia, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of support for the just claims of Bosnia-Herzegovina

and, on the other hand, the covert and overt support provided by some Western powers for Serbian crimes and their indifference toward the repeated violation of the sanctions imposed on Serbia are clear to everyone, and the aim behind such false claims is nothing other than the justification of the weak response shown by the international community to the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Anniversary of Breaking U.S. Relations Marked

LD0904121195 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of today's Islamic Consultative Majles open session, Deputy Speaker Hasan Rowhani, who chaired the session, referred to the 9 April anniversary of breaking relations between Iran and the U.S., and embarked on describing the effects and results of that action. He pointed out: That move resulted in strengthening the spirit of perseverance and steadfastness, and brought new vitality and speed to the move toward self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It made the U.S. realize that the independent-seeking, self-sacrificing and intelligent nation of Iran is not a nation to be diverted from its righteous path by such pressures.

He described recent remarks by the U.S. President—who called Iran an unusual and extraordinary threat to U.S. national security, foreign policy and its economy—as well as his moves concerning the declaration of a national emergency status in his country, to be a repetition of the past unsuccessful mistakes and experiences, and termed them reactionary and irrational behavior. Hasan Rowhani added: Undoubtedly the nearing of the presidential elections in America and the election competition between the main parties is one of the elements instrumental in the adoption of such a policy and such propaganda. All the clamor is designed to cover up the failed policies of the ruling so-called Democrat Party, so that the party can benefit further from the Zionists' money and their propaganda paraphernalia.

He then described the repetition of the U.S. threat in the political and economic fields—which stems from the failure of U.S. efforts and the neutralization of its plots—as another element in such reactionary moves, and called U.S. domestic and foreign policies hypocritical.

Referring to the false and two-faced policies of America regarding the Islamic revolution of Iran, he added: While U.S. officials called on other countries not to deal with Iran, they themselves took the initiative to do just that. The deputy Majles speaker added: The United States will fail, just as it has done before, and will not succeed because the era of dictating foreign and economic policies to others has passed, and it has become clear to the world that the U.S. is unable to make any impression on Iran, which has tremendous resources and a steadfast nation. He considered such moves by America to be

principally rooted in its reactionary approach, irrational moves, the awakening of the Muslims, the revival of Islamic thought, and the penetration and propagation of true Islam—which has become a worrying element to both the Americans and the Zionists.

Hasan Rowhani considered the failure of the U.S. plan to make Zionists dominant over regional states to be another of the elements in the U.S. reactionary moves toward Islam and the Islamic revolution, and added: The Americans' slogan in this regard is to control Iran, exert economic pressure, prevent Iran's growth and development, and deprive Iran of advanced technology.

He stressed: The Palestine nation is awake and will not surrender to such plans, and will not give up its aspirations. The Middle East issue will be resolved only when everyone returns to their homeland.

Radio Views Break in Ties

LD0904153495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 9 Apr 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[RBIS Translated Text] Today, 20 Farvardin [9 April], is the anniversary of the breaking of relations between America and Iran. The Islamic revolution in Iran faced America's aggressive policies in the region with a great problem. Before the revolution Iran was reckoned to be a support for the United States' policies in the region. After the success of the Islamic revolution, Iran became that country's greatest foe in the region and the world. The cutting of America's illegitimate interests in Iran and the prevention of the plunder of this country's resources and wealth, as well as the Islamic revolution of Iran's spirit of struggle against arrogance left no place for the continuation of America's hegemonic policies. The incapability of the American ringleaders in analyzing the events, which ended in the victory of the Islamic revolution and their failure to take care to recognize the existing realities of the Iranian community resulted in the American rulers adopting policies and stances regarding the Islamic Iran based on untrue and unrealistic analyses, which brought no other results but increasing ignominy and humiliation for America.

The seizure of the den of spies [the U.S. Embassy in Tehran], the failure of the U.S. military attack, the annihilation of the American soldiers in the Tabas desert, and the failure of the Nozheh coup d'etat were devastating defeats levelled at America by the Islamic system of Iran, one at the heel of another. The uncompromising stance of the leader of the Islamic revolution on the one hand and the failure of U.S. efforts to bring the revolutionary movement of the Iranian people to compromise on the other brought the rulers of that country to reactive stances and the announcement on 20 Farvardin 1359 [9 April 1980] on the breaking of political relations with the revolutionary Iran as the White

House policy was a turning point that brought the fluctuating trend of the two countries' relations to a new arena. That move—adopted with the aim of isolating and pressuring the revolutionary government of Iran—did not mean an end of conspiracy and aggression against Iran but the beginning of a new round of American interference and aggression in the region.

Instigating the Iraqi regime to wage an unequal and tyrannical war against Iran, direct intervention in that war, giving technical, intelligence, and military support to Iraq, direct encounters with Iranian forces in the Persian Gulf, sending troops to the region and attacking civilian targets—particularly the shooting down of an Iranian airliner over the Persian Gulf waters—all carried the sign of the animosity and the aggressive nature of the ringleaders of that aggressive power.

Despite all that animosity toward Iran—which was backed by great financial and military support—the Muslim nation of Iran, under the auspices of faith and reliance on God and the wise leadership of the Imam of the umma [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with him and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, endeavored resolutely and indefatigably to defend the Islamic system and neutralized all these plots. The great successes of the Iranian nation in repelling the enemies' onslaught, its move toward the reconstruction of the country and the commissioning of hundreds of huge national projects in various parts of the country give testament to this reality: American leaders have made a great mistake regarding the Islamic system of Iran. At the moment, American efforts to re-exert pressure on Iran and make propaganda to prevent other states from cooperating with Iran and also making political capital of general concepts such as human rights and terrorism to condemn the revolutionary system of Iran demonstrate the continuation of that regime's illogical animosity against the Muslim nation of Iran. What is certain is that the revolutionary people of the proud state of Iran are resolved to continue their righteous path with their heads held high. On that path they will not let any fear enter their hearts by the animosity and vindictive actions of any power.

Commentary Views 'Myopic' U.S. Foreign Policy

NC1004104395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 10 Apr 95*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the few days since the United States raised its cacophonous clamor over nuclear installations in Iran, the bewilderment and amateurishness of the Democrats in the field of foreign policy has been seen to have become more pronounced than ever.

In this latest stance, the U.S. vice president denied his country's threats against Russia and overtly retracted the comments of White House echelons in the NEW YORK

TIMES. Obviously the leaders of the Democratic Party, who are extremely apprehensive about the party's fate at the next election, have initiated renewed efforts to mend fences and eliminate the problems that have appeared in relations with Russia.

The Democrats, who are currently in the minority in the U.S. Congress, do not wish to take the blame for the frigidity and strain in relations with Russia or for the concomitant repercussions. The opposition of some internal circles in the United States to Washington's convergence with the Zionist regime's propagandist policies has led somewhat to the subsiding of the outcry regarding Iran's access to nuclear weapons.

Obviously the public and the factional circles opposed to the Democrats want Washington to pursue an independent policy and have expressed their displeasure at the continuing myopic policy that conforms to that of the occupationist Zionist regime. Accordingly, the Democrats have resorted to their former propaganda against Iran and chosen a path that goes against U.S. national and regional interests. By supporting the usurping Tel Aviv government thus, they have pitted the United States against over 1 billion Muslims in 53 Islamic countries.

Of course Washington's latest stance and some of its silent retreats have the potential to rectify some of the harm. But the domestic situation of the Democrats and Washington's international failure in the past two years cannot easily be redeemed.

Dennis Ross' Visit to Syria Discussed

NC0804073095 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 8 Apr 95*

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East coordinator in the so-called peace talks, is leaving occupied Palestine for Syria today at a time when Washington's efforts to overcome the obstacles before the Damascus-Tel Aviv compromise have been unsuccessful. The Zionist regime's insistence on the policy of blackmailing the Arab sides, and Syria's refusal to give in to the disgraceful conditions that the Zionist regime is setting, as well as the Syrian side's constant emphasis on the unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 on the Zionist regime's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, are the most significant reasons for this failure.

Although the Zionist regime is threatening the national security of all the Middle Eastern countries with its aggressive and expansionist policies and its various weapons of mass-destruction—nuclear, chemical, and biological—it always propounds security worries in a bid to gain various concessions from the Arabs and to justify the continuation of its occupation.

Within this framework, the Zionist regime ignores Syria's national sovereignty and wants Damascus to accept international observers to be stationed in the Golan Heights in exchange for its withdrawal from the area and that this area be declared a demilitarized zone. This demand has been rejected by Damascus officials, since it harms Syria's national sovereignty, and the Syrian officials have continuously stated that they do not tolerate interference in their domestic affairs under any condition.

Yesterday's remarks by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Ba'thist Party, on parallel security arrangements on both sides of the borders show that Syria will accept the deployment of international observers in the Golan Heights when it will be on a parallel basis and outside the framework of the policies of blackmail.

Of course, there is no doubt that the propoundinN of mutual security worries by Syria since this uncovers the aggressive nature of Tel Aviv and shows that its expansionist policies are unjustified will probably be resisted by the illegitimate Zionist regime and its officials will try to resort to new machinations to continue their political game.

Rafsanjani: Brave Resistance Causes U.S. Anger
LD0904190595 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 9, IRNA—Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Sunday that the brave and unique resistance of Iranian nation against arrogant superpowers was the major reason for U.S. fury.

Making the remark in the flag hoisting ceremony in a military camp here in southern Iran, he noted that one of the causes of U.S. hostility towards Iran was its witnessing people who were reconstructing war-torn areas with exemplary power and determination without seeking the help of foreign agents and driving the country towards development.

Pointing to bravery of Iranian Army, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Basiej in the eight-year sacred war against Iraq, the president said that the Armed Forces were stronger and more vigilant today and received the necessary peace-time supports.

Saying that Armed Forces needs were met inside the country, he remarked that they played a quite prominent role in many a projects and dedicated all their might to the construction of the country. He further pointed out that gigantic dams, power plants, big oil and gas refineries and great petrochemical, steel and military industry were now run by domestic forces without foreigners having the slightest contribution in the projects.

Meanwhile, a gas providing project in the city of Susangherd was also inaugurated by the hojjat ol-eslam.

Rls. 2,530 million is to be spent on the project.

The Iranian president also arrived in the city of Dezful Sunday morning and was warmly welcomed by the people.

Addressing the large gathering of people, he said that the results of the construction work presently underway in the country would come out in future.

He said that the government had succeeded to improve country's economy to a proper stage, adding that the results of the reconstruction work done during the first development plan would be revealed in the course of the second plan.

He further hailed the resistance of people of Dezful during the war and, describing it as a source of honour in the history of Khuzestan, Iran and Islam, remarked that in the war-time whenever there was a discussion of war and resistance, the discussion would be incomplete if the name of Dezful and its people was not mentioned.

The city of Dezful was targeted by 175 Iraqi missiles due to which a great number of people of its citizens lost their lives or were wounded.

He further opened a 5,000-ton cold storage house in the city and inspected the construction work on a 550-bed hospital.

Commentary Claims Regime 'Stronger Than Ever'
LD0804210895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of the Zionist regime's activities in south Lebanon, in an interview with a newspaper published in Tel Aviv remarked that the fall of regime in Iran is imminent.

This is not of course the first time the agents of the Zionist regime have made such thoughtless remarks.

For the past 16 years they have given promise of the imminent collapse of the Islamic republic's system.

It should be said that the Zionist regime, which observed the millions-strong demonstrations held in Tehran and other cities of Iran and the world on the occasion of the Quds day, sees itself face to face with the bitter fact that it is ever more isolated among the people of the region.

Voicing such remarks concerning Iran, therefore, does not esteem from the thoughtlessness of Lubrani, because he well knows that the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by relying on the people's support during the past 16 years, has been able to thwart the plots brewed by the United States and the Zionist regime against the Islamic revolution.

The 22d Bahman demonstration participated by millions of people showed Israel and its agents that people's

massive presence in support of the Islamic revolution is a strong guarantee for the continuation of the Islamic revolution.

This has made the Zionist regime more disappointed than before. Lubrani's confession that there is no organized opposition inside Iran indicates the fact that the Zionist regime's officials acknowledge that the plots they have so far employed for disappointing the people of Iran and the final defeat of the Islamic republic system have proved ineffective, bringing greater disgrace to them.

Political analysts believe that Lubrani, despite all evidence available, still insists on the collapse of the Islamic republic system. In fact he reveals his wishes that he hopes would come true.

Apparently, however, Lubrani and his American masters should still await the realization of their wishes.

Today one reality imposes itself on the Zionist regime and the United States greater than ever before. The Islamic Republic of Iran today stands, stronger than ever before, against implementation of imperialist policies.

The Zionist regime and the United States will not be able to defeat the Islamic revolution because of its popularity.

Rafsanjani: Self-Reliance 'Too Much' for U.S.

LD0904125795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Speaking at a morning parade by the joint armed forces in Ahvaz today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: After the dying down of the flames of war [Iran-Iraq war] the light of reconstruction and development has bathed the whole state, and everywhere we see the effects of growth. He added: Iran becomes evermore prosperous and strong by day. That is why the U.S. animosity toward us is increasing. On the one hand America has witnessed the unparalleled and historical resistance of the Iranian nation during the holy defense period [in the Iran-Iraq war] and on the other, after the war, she notices how powerfully and formidably it is reconstructing after the destructions of war and through the development of its country.

Referring to the fact that the implementation of all big projects in the country in the past were in the hands of foreign advisors, the president said now all those projects are being implemented by the efforts of committed internal forces. He added: With the implementation of such big tasks the strings of the country's dependence on the outside world are being cut every day and the spirit of self-reliance is being boosted. That is proving to be too much for America. [passage omitted]

Daily Criticizes Decision To Send Team to U.S.

NC0704064595 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 95 p 13

[Unattributed commentary: "The Chattanooga Swamp"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The forceful speeches of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution to the gathering of pilgrims in the holy Razavi shrine and the vigorous sermons by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the second Friday congregation of the current [Iranian] year indicate that the slogan of "Death to America" is still a unanimous one of the Iranian nation and is rooted in their revolutionary acumen.

The conduct of U.S. officials in the past few days can make any sensible individual understand the depth of the malice of the White House echelons toward the Islamic Revolution.

The charges of possessing nuclear weapons, the dastardly efforts to sever cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia in the completion of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, the extensive lobbying by the European and Asian governments for an economic embargo on Iran, and the accusation of the deployment of nuclear weapons in the Persian Gulf are all being leveled against the Islamic Republic of Iran under circumstances in which the murmurings of "gunboat diplomacy" are audible.

The triumphant and great country of Islamic Iran in the magnificent period of the revolution had relatively better opportunities than at present in the field of sports and had always given priority to the interests of the revolution and the system over winning honors and plaudits solely on the athletic field.

Now that the clear and declared policy of the Islamic Revolution, which was embodied in the recent remarks of the great leader, continues to be the same, it appears that the views of the country's sports management are otherwise!

The Foreign Ministry should clearly and frankly define its stance regarding the dispatch of the national free-style wrestling team to the United States so that any serious repercussions that may result from this decision should involve those who are sending the national Iranian wrestling team to the "Chattanooga Swamp" against the wishes of the majority of the people and in the worst possible political climate.

It is obvious that the reputation of the Iranian wrestlers will not be put to the test in such tournaments and in such negative conditions. This is because the honor of our noble sportsmen today is being bandied about among all the people of the world. Disgrace will only befall those who with their incorrect planning will be instrumental in segregating the path of wrestling from that of the people.

Clinton Accused of Stopping Conoco Oil Deal

LD0904163995 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stockholm, April 9, IRNA—There is a rumour in news circles in the West and

European oil companies that Iran's refusal to bow to U.S. demands during talks on the contract between National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Conoco has prompted the U.S. President to use his executive power to cancel the contract.

Announcing the above, a German journalist told IRNA that the U.S. had promised to limit the presence of the U.S. and NATO warships in the Persian Gulf, particularly in the area of Conoco oil project only if Iran agreed to discontinue Karoon-4 dam project and abandon its plan to receive loans from the Japanese Overseas Fund.

Europeans believe that the U.S. pressure on Iran is not merely economically motivated but rather stemmed from its failure to persuade Russia, Japan, Germany and France to restrict their relations with Iran.

The German reporter said that major contracts reached between Iran and Russia and long-term economic cooperation between the two countries have deeply worried the U.S. and Europe.

Marring Tehran-Moscow relations has been given top priority in the U.S. foreign policy.

The U.S. is closely watching Iran's trade relations with Germany and France and in the opinion of the Americans, Europe should not be the main trade partner of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRNA bureau in Vienna recently received a message claiming that the U.S. has called on Iran to put all documents concerning the visit to Tehran of McFarlain at the disposal of democrats so that they could use them in their next presidential election campaign.

The message also claimed that Iran's rejection of the proposal has angered the democrats to such an extent that they decided to cancel Iran-Conoco contract.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has said it has no knowledge of the U.S. democrats' message demanding access to documents and information regarding McFarlain's visit to Tehran. However, such messages between the two sides are conveyed through the channels of the embassies representing the interests of both countries and therefore, no credence can be attached to information received from other channels.

The claim has not yet been confirmed by independent sources.

Western media reports indicated a split in the U.S. Administration over whether it should endorse or revoke the Conoco contract. The reports also betrayed a state of confusion in the U.S. foreign policy.

Last week, a U.S. analyst said that the U.S. foreign policy lacked diplomatic balance and logic and that the pressure exerted by the pro-Zionist lobby at the U.S. State Department was quite obvious.

He said that Clinton's decision to intensify economic pressure on Iran and cancel Iran-Conoco contract has undoubtedly been taken under Zionist pressure.

Conoco inked a dlr. one billion contract with the National Iranian Oil Company to develop oil fields in Siri near the Strait of Hormuz. Conoco's investment was supposed to be paid off through it receipt of oil once the oil fields became operational.

The contract was the first of its kind signed by Iran and an American company since the victory of the Islamic revolution for exploration and exploitation of oil in an off-shore field. It could pave the way for joint ventures and cooperation.

With the cancellation of the contract with Conoco, Iran's attention has been diverted towards European companies to implement the project. In addition, the U.S. policy of restricting Europe's relations with Iran has fallen through.

By calling Iran a terrorist country, the U.S. has been trying over the past few years to limit Iran's ties with Europe and to this end, it is only Britain that has limited, to some extent, its relations with Iran due to some other complicated reasons concerning Tehran-London relations. Other European nations, particularly Germany and France enjoy good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Oil experts are of the belief that cancellation of the Conoco contract has inflicted damage not only on the American company itself, but also on other leading U.S. oil companies by depriving them of a lubricative market.

Azerbaijan's Oil Accord Cancellation 'Mistake'

LD1004112995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the cancellation of the oil agreement between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our foreign minister, announced that the cancellation of the agreement contradicts the responsibilities of Baku and that it will not be in the long-term interests of Azerbaijan.

Dr. Velayati said that as long as the legal status of the Caspian Sea is not clear, such agreements are not applicable. The legal status of the Caspian Sea was absolutely clear, on the basis of the 1940 Tehran-Moscow agreement, until the fall of the Soviet Union. But with the fall of the Soviet Union and the creation of new countries in the region, this legal status was transformed. Now the Caspian Sea littoral states are in the process of defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea within this new context.

Until this legal status is defined, the Caspian Sea littoral states cannot unilaterally exploit the resources of the sea,

because the underground fields are interconnected in the Caspian Sea and a unilateral exploitation by one neighboring country could damage the interests of the rest. It was on this basis that the beneficiary countries opposed Baku's unilateral consortium agreement with Western companies from the very beginning. Because, however, the Government of Azerbaijan had proposed that the Caspian Sea littoral states would participate in the agreement, these countries reluctantly accepted the consortium agreement.

Now that, under American pressure, Baku has cancelled Iran's share in the oil consortium, Tehran has the right to demand its undeniable right on the basis of the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

Of course the cancellation of Iran's 1 percent share is not so important as to affect Tehran-Baku relations or to influence historical and cultural ties between the two Muslim nations. Nevertheless, such behavior was not expected from the Azerbaijani Government, which has shown the independence of its political will in a number of cases.

It is possible that the decision of the Azerbaijani Government was made on the basis that the cancellation of the Iranian share, upon American demand, would help the Azerbaijani Government in using American political influence to solve the Karabakh crisis and in obtaining American financial aid to support its economic programs. But the experience shared by the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union indicate that Washington only seeks to misuse these countries and is not willing to act in their interests at any cost.

On this basis, political analysts think that the action of the Azerbaijani Government was a strategic mistake, contradicting this country's national interests and the popular wishes of its people. There is no doubt that Baku's cooperation with regional countries would better serve its interests.

Velayati: Not in Baku's Interest

*LD0904205295 Tehran IRNA in English 2047 GMT
9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday night underlined that the unilateral cancellation of the oil agreement between Iran and Azerbaijan was against Baku's agreement. [as received]

In an interview with IRNA here Velayati said that the cancellation of the agreement in the long run is not in the interest of Baku.

Until the legal regime of the Caspian Sea has not been determined such agreements are not valid, said Velayati, adding that the implementation of such agreements can be done when the legal basis of the Caspian Sea was determined.

Velayati also added that the said agreement cannot be put into operation unilaterally.

Nateq-Nuri Kuwait Visit, Cooperation Viewed

*NC1004084895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
10 Apr 95*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The speaker of the Islamic Majles, 'Nateq-Nuri, has arrived in the friendly neighboring country of Kuwait. During a week's visit in response to a visit by the Kuwaiti parliamentary speaker to Iran, our country's speaker will hold talks on bilateral cooperation in the parliamentary, political, economic, and cultural fields with high-level Kuwaiti officials.

According to political analysts, Iran and Kuwait have immense scope for cooperation. Both countries are Muslim and members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC]. With bilateral cooperation, they can defend the aspirations of the oppressed Muslim nations internationally. The two are contiguous countries in the Persian Gulf and are concerned with the stability of this region.

In the past decade the two countries have been victims of cowardly aggression by the Iraqi Government and both are very highly motivated to prevent such unpleasant incidents from recurring in the region. Four years ago, when Iraq attacked Kuwait and exposed the veracity of many realities that Iran had proclaimed during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war for Kuwait and the rest of the world, there was renewed concern by Kuwait with regard to its foreign policy. This resulted in extraordinary growth in economic, political, and cultural relations between Iran and Kuwait.

In the past few years political meetings have taken place between high-level officials in the two countries and views have been exchanged on regional and Islamic issues more regularly. Economic cooperation has also assumed a prosperous trend and commercial exchanges between the two countries have increased manifold.

Iran and Kuwait's similar economic structures and the membership of both countries in OPEC are conducive to bilateral cooperation in the field of oil. Defending a realistic oil price by combating the oversupply of this vital product, cooperation in the field of the sale and purchase of oil on the international market, especially after the unprecedented depreciation of the dollar's parity rates, as well as technical collaboration in drilling, extraction, and the refining of oil, are among the salient features of oil cooperation that can be expanded.

Khamene'i Speech on Hajj, Enemy 'Mischief'

LD0504132695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Speech by "Ayatollah" 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at gathering of hajj officials on 5 April; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all the dear brothers and sisters who made it possible for me once again to speak about the divine duty of hajj in this honorable gathering of officials in charge of this great duty. [passage omitted]

There are two important and eternal points that can be made about the hajj. These are unforgettable. First, there is the issue of spirituality in the hajj. Throughout this duty, from start to finish, there is a spirit which consists of attention to and purity of intention toward the sacred existence of the divinity and the expression of servility to God. [passage omitted]

Anyone who is able, must carry out this task [hajj] once [in their life]. Thus, immersing oneself once in that spirituality, that bubbling spring of spirituality, is sufficient for cleansing oneself. Of course, if it can be carried out on more than one occasion, so much the better. The necessary minimum however is just that once. You can see how strong the spiritual aspect of the hajj must be. We must understand our religious duties in this framework and on the basis of such points.

If we see that the hajj has gained aspects of materiality, pretense, and lack of spirituality; if we see that during the hajj journey the behavior that we choose for ourselves or is imposed on us is counter to spirituality, we must realize that we have become distant from the philosophy of the hajj.

Those who spend most of the hajj period on affairs which are contrary to spiritualism, which are full of materialism, which are remote from God, are unknowingly reducing the value which God Almighty has bestowed on them at hajj. [passage omitted]

In the past, when those in charge of hajj affairs had no idea about spirituality, there were no expectations. Of course, there were some people who understood and were open-minded, who got by somehow, but there was no system to steer them toward spirituality. The situation is different today. Those who are in charge of hajj affairs are familiar with spirituality, are open-minded, are close to God. They understand spirituality and have tasted the sweet taste of being close to God and talking about God. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen! When the Muslims from the east and the west, the black and white Muslims speaking different languages, all gather in one place [Mecca] to perform a ritual, when they all worship in one place for several

days, their objective is beyond nationalistic matters and beyond self-interests. Otherwise such rituals could have been performed in congregational mosques of every city. Why have the Muslims been instructed to gather in a certain place? The objective is to bring them together and to make them understand that there are shared interests beyond nationalism. That is, we are all Muslims and the shared interest is Islamic unity. This is a point which the Islamic Republic has stressed from the first. It says: hajj pilgrimage has been made a religious duty so as to make the Muslims acquainted with one another. The objective is to unite Muslims, to make them think of their common interests, and to instruct them to avoid their common enemies. The latter, that is avoiding the common enemies, is named disavowal of infidels. [passage omitted]

Some people, in these days, say that nowhere in the book of instructions [the Koran] is it written that the disavowal of infidels is an obligatory hajj ritual. Well, where is it written that safeguarding the Islamic system is the most important duty? Anyone who denies this, he has not understood Islam. There is no need to write everything down. Anywhere you see a trace of the religion, you can see this point [disavowal] clearly. Of course, one must be endowed with insight, understanding, wisdom, and ability to distinguish.

Who can fail to understand that the objective of hajj, monotheism, the slogan of spirituality in hajj and this huge congregation is to demonstrate the might of Islam against blasphemy and to show the power of monotheism in the face of polytheism. The goal is for the monotheism to take cudgels against polytheism. This is contrary to what the enemies desire today.

See what America is doing today. You can see how disgracefully they are demonstrating their hostility? Why are they doing so sir? It is because they do not wish to see the revival of justice, spirituality, and Islam anywhere in the world. If the Islamic Republic had confined its activities to chanting Islamic slogans alone while performing the basic religious functions, that is, saying prayers and reciting the Koran, they would have left us alone. This is a fact that they would have left the Islamic Republic alone, if it had not challenged global arrogance. They are not against Islam's abjectness. They would not oppose a humble Islam, God forbid. They oppose a powerful and glorious Islam.

If a country, somewhere in the world, adopts the flag of Islam with the slogan "There is no God, but Allah" [as in Saudi Arabian flag] and chants slogans in support of Islam but remains humble before global arrogance, global arrogance would not fight against her? Is global arrogance crazy to fight against such a state? Is it mad to oppose such a country?

A kind of Islam that falls flat in the dust and kneels before America, does not pose any threat to U.S. interests. Why should they fight against that kind of Islam? Well it is their servant. They can obtain money from it,

if they so desire. They can demand assistance and impose their will if they wish. This kind of Islam is not hostile to have any enemies. They do not wish to accept the sort of Islam which challenges their authority, which has a motive, and which invites the people to join its ranks.

The prophet of Islam did not confine himself to Mecca. Had he remained inside his house in Mecca and had he not begun inviting the people to convert, no one would have bothered him. Islam is very dear to us and its honor must be maintained. This is achieved when Islam stands up for justice, raises its head and refuses to submit to the enemy's bullying; and instead it brings abjectness to global arrogance again and again and rubs its nose into dirt. This is what the Islamic Republic did. [audience shouts approval]

In spite of the pessimists, the weak-willed, and the narrow-minded who said it cannot be done, do not do it, be afraid, this same Islamic Republic succeeded with the help of this same people and with God's blessings and under the leadership of that monotheistic man, that great imam [Khomeyni]. [passage omitted]

Many times this Republic under that leadership and with the people's support was able to humiliate the enemy and remain popular. Of course, they are upset about that, they do not like it and want to crush it. They make false accusations, shout slogans, tell lies, commit injustices—as you can see whatever they say is unjust. They hatch plots, they put their corrupt and rotten hands on this country, create cultural, political and economic problems here and there, they sabotage, they hinder the reconstruction of the country—construction is difficult, destruction is easy.

Today the government is busy rebuilding. One has to build a building brick by brick, but it could easily be destroyed with explosives. They hinder this difficult task, they make trouble and create mischief. Why? Because they see that this nation, with the call of Islam and with Islamic slogans, is determined to build its life and hereafter and not bow to the enemy. That is why they are hostile to it. That is why they are hostile to the slogan of monotheism at hajj. [passage omitted]

Construction of Major Tehran Airport Under Way *LD0904172595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 9 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The implementation of the first phase of the Imam Khomeyni airport is 40 percent complete.

The Imam Khomeyni international airport is under construction at the end of a plateau in Robat Karim. The airport will meet domestic and international needs as well as attracting more than 100 million dollars in foreign currency. [passage omitted]

As a result of new government decisions, the first phase of the construction of this international airport—the biggest in the Middle East—will be completed towards the end of next year.

The airport will be capable of providing services to foreign airlines as well as carrying three million passengers in domestic and international flights and 115,000 tonnes of goods annually.

This major national project is under construction southwest of Tehran province, between the Tehran-Qom highway and the Tehran-Saveh road. The airport is being built in an area of around 15 hectares at the end of the Robat Karim plateau. [passage omitted]

According to Engineer Mirkhani, the construction of the Imam Khomeyni international airport is more than 40 percent complete. A sum of 36 billion rials was expended on the construction of the airport last year. A sum of 60 billion rials has been allocated for this major project in the current year. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Khuzestan Province

LD0804202595 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ramhormoz (Khuzestan), April 8, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday arrived in Ramhormoz in this southern province and was warmly greeted by thousands of local people.

In an informal talk with the local people Hashemi-Rafsanjani appreciated their feelings and reminded them that the city Ramhormoz had been an ancient center of civilization.

He said the almighty had bestowed every blessing on Ramhormoz, and added that he was personally confident that the city would shortly get back its past glory.

Later today, the president visited the nearby town of Bagh Malek, where in his address to the people he said the bureau for the deprived has commission from him to see to the needs of the people and end deprivation in every location of the country.

He appreciated the contribution of the people to the revolution and expressed hope that his administration and the Majlis would respond to the needs of the people in that town.

Reconstruction in Province Viewed

NC0804073195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 8 Apr 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Abadan and Khorramshahr in continuation of his

visit to Khuzestan Province. This visit, which is allowing him to meet with the people in these cities and inspect projects that are being constructed or are ready to become operational, was coupled with the people's warm welcome. Last night the president also attended the Khuzestan Province reconstruction staff session in Abadan and lauded the efforts by the people and officials to reconstruct the war-stricken areas in Khuzestan.

It should be noted that during the First Five-Year Plan, some 2.511 trillion rials were allocated to the reconstruction of the sites damaged by the imposed war. Out of this amount, 1.249 trillion rials were allocated to Khuzestan Province. Also, during the imposed war more than 180,000 houses and shops were destroyed in the province, and the reconstruction of more than 150,000 of these has been completed, while the necessary credits for the remaining units during the current [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1995] have been ensured.

Among the important points that should be noted in the process of economic activities and of the rebuilding of the war-stricken areas in Khuzestan Province, especially of Abadan and Khorramshahr, is the efforts to create jobs. In relation to this the existence of trade, fishing, and date cultivation possibilities, as well as the existence of transportation possibilities such as railroads, have created favorable grounds for economic investments that play a significant role in making up for the damage inflicted by the imposed war. It is in view of all these things that most of the government's efforts in the first Five Year Plan was concentrated on the reconstruction of offices and shops and on helping trade to flourish once again in Abadan and Khorramshahr. These, in turn, have helped attract emigrants and compensate for the years of stagnation in the area's economic activities.

Also, the participation by the non-governmental sectors and by the people in the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas gives rise to hopes that with the cooperation of all the governmental and public institutions, reconstruction this year can be continued according to plans.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Concludes Visit

NC1004092595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was on a five-day visit to Khuzestan Province, returned to Tehran this morning. During his visit President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurated operations to implement the Karun-3, Karun-4, Marun, and Karkheh Dam projects. He also attended ceremonies to inaugurate some massive economic, cultural, and health schemes including steel and petrochemical complexes and hospitals that have become operational.

During his visit President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also met the people of Khuzestan Province, who accorded him a

warm and tumultuous welcome. He explained the government's programs for generating employment, constructing dams, and work in various other fields.

On the last night of his stay in the province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also inaugurated some more important projects in Ahvaz. Please listen to a report from our correspondent at the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ahvaz:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the ceremonies to begin the construction of the steel bridge in Khuzestan last night. This bridge is 468 meters long and 20 meters wide and will be completed in 40 months. It will span the Karun-Ahvaz River. It is being built by the Khuzestan steel industries at an estimated cost of 10 billion rials. The number two (?metallurgical) unit of the Khuzestan steel mill, with an annual capacity of 2.5 million tons, began operations in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night.

The operations to implement the Zamzam plan, with an annual production target of 700,000 tons of sponge iron, were also initiated. Under the second Five-Year Plan the Khuzestan steel complex plans to attain an annual production capacity of 3 million tons of a variety of steel products in its various units. The Khuzestan steel complex, which includes various companies such as the Ahvaz steel industries, the national steel industry group, and the Kavyan rolling mills, produces 2.160 million tons of molded steel and steel components a year. With the planning and programming of the production lines, 1.7 million tons of molded steel and 1.2 million tons of finished product will be produced at this complex. [end recording]

Nepal

Prime Minister Warns Kashmiri Rebels

BK0904130195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Man Mohan Akhikari, has warned Kashmiri militants to refrain from indulging in any anti-India activity from the Nepalese soil. He said his country has taken steps to prevent convening of the proposed conference on Kashmir in Kathmandu. In an interview to AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Ratan Salve, Mr. Akhikari declared that Nepal will never compromise on India's security and is even prepared to give a written assurance in this regard.

Mr. Akhikari is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow on a five-day visit to India. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including three ministers, top government officials, and leading businessmen.

Pakistan**Editorials Concerning Bhutto's U.S. Visit****'Log-Jam,' Foreign Issues Viewed**

BK0804094895 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English
8 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Breaking the log-jam"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a series of preliminary meetings with Congressmen before she gets down to the nitty gritty of talks with the Clinton administration, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has taken pains to spell out the issues which are contributing to what is perceived as a log-jam in Pakistan-US relations. First and foremost on the list of such obstacles is of course the Pressler Amendment, which is increasingly coming in for criticism for its discriminatory and unhelpful nature, both as far as non-proliferation and US relations with an old friend are concerned, by President Clinton himself, the administration, as well as more and more influential voices in Congress. Other issues, no less important from Pakistan's point of view, are Kashmir and the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] renewal. On Pressler, the difficulty is that the emerging caucus of Congressmen sympathetic to Pakistan's case notwithstanding, any legislation can only be repealed or amended if there is a bipartisan consensus in a Republican dominated Congress. That may not be out of the question, but there appears to be a long way to go to that happy outcome just yet, particularly since Senator Larry Pressler and other partisans of the Amendment that carries his name are equally determined to see that the law stays. On Kashmir, Pakistan having some time ago despaired of India's rigidity in bipartisan talks, is more and more convinced and in turn is trying to convince the only remaining superpower of the need for third party mediation. To substantiate the need for such mediation, Prime Benazir Bhutto has referred to the historical experience whereby the only two times Pakistan and India have agreed on anything, the Rann of Kutch dispute and the Indus Waters Treaty, it has been through third party mediation. However, the US interests in South Asia, particularly its desire to penetrate the huge emerging market in India, is unlikely to persuade the US to climb out on a limb for Pakistan's sake by appearing partisan and annoying India. For that reason alone, the US and the West generally, as indicated by the German President during his recent visit to Pakistan, prefer Pakistan and India to sort out this and other matters between themselves. In other words, we are back to square one on this one. The third issue which is likely to figure prominently during the Prime Minister's visit is the extension of the NPT. Pakistan's position is well known. We seek a regional non-proliferation regime because of the threat perception from a nuclear armed India and would therefore only be willing to sign the NPT if India could be persuaded to go along. India of course is unwilling short of global nuclear disarmament, a distant prospect, to put

it mildly. Since the NPT review conference is due to start soon and the US is setting great store by a positive outcome of the conference's deliberations, this too could become an irritant between Pakistan and the US since we cannot agree to a unilateral rollback of our nuclear programme. The Minister has reiterated in Washington that she seeks a new basis for the relationship between Pakistan and the US based on trade not aid, or as one report put it, on MoUs [memorandums of understanding] not IOUs. The one positive decision she may be able to return with is the extension of US government insurance cover to American investors in Pakistan. On the F-16s as on all the other issues outlined above, not much can be expected, not even a return of our money since the prospects of a sale of the by now outdated F-16s is unlikely to fetch an acceptable price.

If this analysis is correct, it poses the question what policy options other than placing all our eggs in the basket of US goodwill we have? Perhaps on her return, once the debits and credits from her Washington visit are all in, it is time for the Prime Minister as well as the Foreign Office to start burning some midnight oil to discover whether Pakistan's foreign policy is to go if the Americans just cannot, or do not, play ball.

Bhutto Said Pleased With Talks

BK0904091195 Peshawar *THE FRONTIER POST* in English 9 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Doing Well, So Far"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on a ten-day visit to the US, is clearly pleased with the way her trip has gone, so far. Signing Memoranda Understanding (MoUs) Thursday worth \$6 billion she reportedly observed: 'There is more at this table in front of me this evening than all the money from all the world invested in Pakistan from 1977 to 1993'. Of course this is encouraging and, as the prime minister pointed out, represents an endorsement, by the hardheaded corporate sector of the US, of the policies of the government and the discipline that it has introduced at the macro-economic level. It should be kept in mind, however, that these are still MoUs and carry an implicit proviso to the effect that the actual investment will follow only once the requisite stability and the necessary infrastructural requirements are in place. The terms being offered by Pakistan for attracting the investment, should also be such as to ensure that the anticipated benefit actually accrues to the country. With regard to the Pressler Amendment which has in many ways come to define the Pak-US relationship over the last five years there are, as expected, few signs of any dramatic breakthrough. But the prime minister does seem to have been able to put the case for Pakistan effectively before key members of the US Congress. The influential Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, for instance, has been reported as saying that he was impressed by the prime minister's arguments for lifting the Pressler Amendment. She has also received

bipartisan assurances from a 25-member group of congressmen seeking to repeal the Pressler law. Earlier, President Clinton had made it clear that in his view the law needed to be reconsidered as it had simply failed to achieve its objective. Such sentiment in Congress and the administration is not likely to be translated rapidly into an actual change in the law but there is no question that Pakistan's position is now being better understood and appreciated in key quarters responsible for decision-making in the United States. It is reassuring in this context that Pakistan has, apparently, stood its ground on the issue of the country's nuclear programme. Pakistan's foreign minister, in an interview carried by a Pakistani newspaper, has observed that it had been made clear to the US that Pakistan regarded it a major concession to have agreed to the fissile material cut-off regime. This is an eminently reasonable position. Clearly, any further progress with regard to the resolution of the nuclear issue, as far as Pakistan is concerned, will have to take place within a regional framework.

Meanwhile, senator Larry Pressler, the architect of the Pressler Amendment, has continued with his one-sided offensive against Pakistan by alleging that it has nine or ten nuclear weapons while ignoring completely the various reports assessing India's nuclear arsenal as being many times larger. Also, a resolution has reportedly been moved in Congress recommending that the US persuade Pakistan to hold talks with India with regard to Kashmir under the Simla Agreement. Presumably, the prime minister will be able to provide members of the US Congress and the administration with useful insight into the manner in which such bilateral negotiations have time and again been rendered meaningless by India, pushing Pakistan into seeking third-party mediation. That India's position does not quite enjoy the credibility it once did is indicated also by another resolution reportedly moved in the House of Representatives, seeking the suspension of US development assistance to India unless the US president is in a position to certify that the government of India has taken steps to ensure the prevention of human rights abuses in the country. While this resolution, as the other, may not get the necessary votes, it is another indication of a move towards a more balanced approach on the part of the US with regard to the situation in the subcontinent. And the prime minister's visit does seem to be helping the process.

Preliminary Negative Aspects Addressed

BK1004064995 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English
10 Apr 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Prime Minister's tour so far"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto is due to meet President Clinton on April 11. On the eve of that crucial meeting it may not be amiss to attempt a preliminary assessment of what has been achieved as a result of the PM's series of meetings with administration officials, Congressmen, potential investors and media, so far. Foremost amongst the 'achievements' chalked up to date must lie the growing pressure

from the administration and within Congress to undo the harmful effects of the Pressler Amendment. Although the actual mechanics of a repeal or amendment of the law may not be at hand yet, the growing chorus of voices on Capital Hill, the White House and the Pentagon, must serve to encourage the PM when she broaches what is perhaps the most important item on the agenda for the meeting with the American President. Defence Secretary William Perry in particular has vociferously repeated during a meeting with Ms Bhutto his views on the Pressler Amendment and its negative fallout for non-proliferation as much as ties with old ally Pakistan. The Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, has reportedly been 'charmed' and persuaded of Pakistan's case after meeting Ms Bhutto and has promised to try and follow up on her request for the repeal of the offending Amendment. This is important because in the nature of things, once the excitement surrounding the PM's visit fades, other pressing concerns could relegate Pakistan's issue to the backburner. Also Senator Larry Pressler and two other Senators have expressed negative views on what they consider a premature review of the Amendment. Ms Bhutto's 'charm', however, never had a chance to work on the powerful Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, considered the principal power-broker in Washington, since he seems to have followed his usual practice of turning down meetings with visiting foreign dignitaries in her case as well. While judgment on the MoUs [memorandums of understanding] the PM is bringing home must await implementation on the ground, the splashing of a WASHINGTON POST story on the small experimental nuclear reactor in Khushab, capable of generating no more than 40 MW of power, to coincide with the PM's presence in Washington, is symptomatic of the paranoia surrounding the nuclear issue, at least as far as it relates to Pakistan. Never mind that Pakistan has no processing facilities to convert the spent fuel of the heavy water reactor and separate plutonium from it for use in nuclear weapons. Never mind that Pakistan has no processing facilities to convert the spent fuel of the heavy water reactor and separate plutonium from it for use in nuclear weapons. Never mind that Pakistan has been a model of restraint in the face of an India bent upon raising the nuclear and conventional weapons stakes in South Asia because of its hegemonistic ambitions. The imagined threat of an 'Islamic bomb' has kept, and continues to keep, the dwindling tribe of vested interests busy in beating this particular drum against Pakistan. The F-16s issue remains stalled, since of the three possible options mentioned by Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi during a briefing to the media, i.e. delivery to Pakistan, budgetary appropriation of \$1.4 billion by Congress to repay us, and selling the equipment to a third country, the third, which on the face of it seems the only available option, is in fact not feasible because the price those F-16s command today may not be adequate.

Various reports and speculations as to the success or failure of the tour have already started appearing in the

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Pakistani Press. The Opposition PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League—Nawaz] has already, and perhaps prematurely, denounced the visit as a total failure. Admittedly they have merely reflected the muted criticism that was being voiced here even before the start of the tour that the serious purposes of the visit had been depreciated by the 'circus' atmosphere surrounding some of the activities and groups that have accompanied the PM. Be that as it may, the disproportionate emphasis on, and therefore, perhaps inadvertent rousing of unrealistic expectations from, the results of the visit, may prove unhelpful to the government on the PM's return.

Talks With Perry Assessed

BK1004083095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A blunt instrument"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talking to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Pentagon, US Defence Secretary William Perry termed the Pressler Amendment a "blunt instrument" which aimed at "right objectives with wrong tools." He observed that the Pressler sanctions against Pakistan had proved counter-productive and therefore needed a review. The law had failed to attain its declared objective of promoting nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, Mr. Perry added. A few days earlier, President Clinton too had expressed similar views regarding the Pressler Amendment. Instead of promoting nuclear non-proliferation goals, the Amendment threatens to unleash an arms race in the region because of its lop-sided approach to Pakistan's defence requirements. The Pressler Amendment is a unique piece of legislation in that it singles out Islamabad for discriminatory treatment in respect of even peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It will be recalled that the new legislation was made applicable only to Pakistan through reversal in 1991 of an earlier decision under which the US President was required to certify non-possession by both India and Pakistan of military capability in nuclear arms in order to qualify for US development and military aid. The reversal provided a blanket exemption from the mischief of the new law to India while Pakistan earned the dubious distinction of being the only country in the world to have been denied US economic and military assistance on this score. The non-delivery of F-16 aircraft to Islamabad, for which it has already made a hefty cash payment of \$658 million, too stems directly from the mischief of this law. In her talks with Defence Secretary Perry, as also with leading Congressional personalities, the Prime Minister has focussed on the counter-productivity and illogicality of the amendment which leaves India out, freeing it from any compulsion to join the non-proliferation regime. The NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] process has thus suffered a tremendous setback.

Going by the mounting awareness in high Administration circles of the essential futility of the Amendment, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States has already started yielding dividends. A process requiring of the administration and the Congress to have a fresh look at the problem and review the amendment has already commenced. The Prime Minister's skilled advocacy of Pakistan's viewpoint in Washington has thus resulted in a perceptible change in the Administration's stance and a greater receptivity to Islamabad's demand for a repeal of the amendment which has lately soured relations between the two old friends. As many as 25 Congressmen have voiced support for such an initiative; and a drastic review or repeal for the notorious piece of legislation now appears to be in the offing. With the prospect of Pressler Amendment either revoked or drastically reviewed, the chances of building bridges of mutual trust and close cooperation between Pakistan and the United States appear to be bright.

U.S. Newspaper Report on Nuclear Reactor Rejected

BK0904085495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has rejected allegations made in THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper that Pakistan was building a nuclear reactor capable of processing plutonium. He told journalists in New York that he believed the article may have been an attempt to sabotage his country's attempts to repeal sanctions imposed against it in 1990.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Kills 2 in First Violation of Truce

BK0804133695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, April 8 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas Saturday [8 January] shot dead two army soldiers at a northern military base in the first killings since a truce between the two sides began three months ago, defence sources said.

Gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed the two soldiers outside the main Palaly military base in the LTTE-controlled northern Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

The truce was agreed between the two sides in a bid to pave the way for talks aimed at resolving the island's ethnic conflict.

The LTTE guerrillas escaped from the scene after apparently shooting the two soldiers at close range with pistols, defence sources said.

"This is a gross violation of the cessation of hostilities, agreement signed between the government and the Tigers," a defence official said, adding that the a rebel commander in the area had been asked to explain the attack.

Government troops were immediately placed on top alert islandwide following the killings, which were the first serious violation of the fragile truce that came into effect January 8, the sources said.

The truce itself is in danger of collapse following the incident since the military had repeatedly warned the government that the LTTE was making use of the cessation of hostilities to regroup its forces, the sources said.

The attack came a day after the LTTE announced that it was ready for a resumption of peace talks that had been deadlocked for the past three months due to the rebel's reluctance to discuss political issues.

The LTTE has been fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils concentrated in the region. Thousands have been killed in the LTTE-led independence struggle.

Ministry Confirms Killings

BK0904112095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry has confirmed that two soldiers on duty at an observation post were killed in a shooting incident at Idakkadu, Jaffna yesterday afternoon. A communique issued by the operational headquarters this morning said that the soldiers were fired at from the direction of Thondamannar and that the attackers fled. Troops retaliated and the casualties among the attackers or motive for the killing are unknown. According to the communique, the security forces have informed the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] area leader, Selvarasa, of this incident and they have denied any involvement of their cadres in the attack. Further Selvarasa had assured the forces that they would ensure that no LTTE cadre came within the prohibited zone. The security forces commander of Jaffna, Major General Weerasooriya, and the LTTE leader, Selvarasa, are in communication and investigations are in progress. No further incident has been reported in this area.

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